

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 MAY 1987

Jordan

Position on Conference — Jordan insists on inviting the PLO to participate in an international peace conference and "what has been said about agreements and contacts is completely baseless," Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated in remarks reported by PETRA-JNA 3 May. The ministers of information and occupied territory affairs likewise denied Israeli media reports that Jordan and Israel have reached agreement on conditions for holding an international conference. *Al-Ra'y* noted the same day. Amman's *Al-Dustur* had earlier viewed the Israeli reports of such an agreement as part of a "U.S.-Israeli maneuver" aimed at sowing division among the Arabs and at excluding the Soviet Union. It is an illusion to talk about changes in the Arab stand on accepting a settlement divesting the international conference of its content, the paper added. *Sawt al-Sha'b* contended that the latest Israeli "maneuvers" are a "test balloon" aimed at measuring reactions to removing the PLO as a principal party to peace negotiations and to convening a conference in accordance with the "Israeli-U.S. formula." The paper accused Israel of seeking to cast doubts on Jordan's explicit stand on convening a conference in which the Palestinians will be represented by the PLO.

Denial of Syrian-Iraqi Meeting — The information minister denied reports that King Husayn recently hosted a meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents inside Jordan. Radio Monte Carlo reported 4 May. The radio noted that reports of the meeting came from Israeli sources cited in the U.S. media. However, Saudi sources quoted by Kuwait's *Al-Qabas* also stated that the Syrian and Iraqi presidents held a 5-hour summit meeting under Husayn's auspices on 27 April, shortly after Syria's Hafiz al-Asad returned from Moscow. KUNA reported. *Al-Qabas* said the talks were held in "understanding and a positive spirit," predicting that a scheduled meeting between the Iraqi and Syrian leaders is expected to be announced shortly.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet privately 5 May before Peres raises his plan for an international conference at the cabinet session the following day, Jerusalem radio reported. Likud ministers vigorously rejected the U.S. formulation of the international conference proposal during a 1 May meeting in which Shamir briefed them on the U.S. paper, Jerusalem television noted.

Regarding Jordan's official reaffirmation insisting on PLO participation in an international conference, Shamir told Jerusalem television that this is "very unpleasant." Nevertheless, Peres stated in a *Hadashot* interview that he possesses "an authoritative declaration that there is a possibility for direct negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-palestinian delegation which will not have PLO people."

Israeli Raid in Lebanon

A 1 May Israeli air attack on PLO targets near Sidon killed 14 Palestinians and wounded 37, according to PLO sources cited by AFP. Warplanes destroyed Fatah, PFLP, and DFLP targets in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah camp, but refugee homes were also hit, and over half the casualties were civilians. The PLO spoke of a "massacre of civilians" and warned of further Israeli attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon. Beirut radio noted that the raid was carried out by Skyhawks and Phantoms, which fired thermal balloons to decoy surface-to-air missiles.

The IDF spokesman confirmed the attack on "terrorist" targets in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio, announcing that the planes completely destroyed a four-story building and also hit bunkers.

In a subsequent development in southern Lebanon, five SLA soldiers were wounded in a 3 May bomb attack near Jazzin, according to the SLA's Voice of Hope radio.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated at a rally in Kuwait that there will be no international conference on Middle East peace without the PLO, KUNA reported 4 May. The PLO leader contended that the 18th PNC will promote a unified Arab stance and he praised the amir of Kuwait, who had emphasized the importance of Arab support for the PLO during their talks the previous day. Before his visit to Kuwait the PLO leader had met in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who reaffirmed Iraq's "firm support" for the PLO, according to INA. In another development, Tripoli television reported that PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir and DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah arrived in Libya 3 May. Al-Wazir told the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* that the visit is aimed at rearranging future Palestinian-libyan relations, WAKH reported.

On the question of relations with Egypt, contrasting opinions were expressed by 'Arafat and the PFLP. While KUNA noted 'Arafat's statement that President Husni Mubarak is a "good, noble nationalist whom I respect," a PFLP source cited by Radio Monte Carlo viewed Mubarak's 30 April speech as a "declaration of war" on the PLO and sharply criticized conciliatory remarks about Mubarak expressed by Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's adviser.

Egypt

A 3 May Cairo radio commentary lambasted PLO leaders who repeat a "barrage of lies" against Egypt in a vain attempt to "slip back into Damascus to free PLO fun's frozen by the PNSF." The PLO leaders are chasing a "mirage" if they think the Syrian regime will allow them access to these funds, the radio said, adding that "the PLO leaders have sold out Egypt to the Syrian regime for 30 pieces of silver." Cairo's *Al-Akhbar* also criticized the PLO leaders in a 2 May editorial cited by MENA, stating

that Egypt's time is too precious to be wasted in discussing the behavior of leaders and groups who make their people's pains and misery a profitable business.

However, both the Liberal Socialist Party and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping (NPUG) criticized Mubarak for being too hasty in breaking relations with the PLO, according to Kuwait's *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* and the NPUG paper *Al-Ahali*.

Syria

Al-Asad Meeting With PNSF — President Al-Asad held talks on Palestinian developments with a Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) delegation 3 May, Damascus radio reported, noting that Al-Asad stressed Syria's continued support for the PNSF and its struggle against "defeatist capitulatory plans." Those present at the meeting included "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum and officials of the Fatah Uprising, Al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GC, and the Popular Struggle Front.

Soviet Weapon Supplies — A Lebanese source cited by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* disclosed that shipments of "advanced" Soviet tanks and missiles have arrived in Damascus in the wake of Al-Asad's visit to Moscow.

Saudi King in Maghreb

Saudi King Fahd arrived in Oran 3 May for talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Riyadh radio reported. According

to Paris radio, the two leaders will travel to the Moroccan border town of Oujda, where they will meet King Hassan II for a "tripartite summit." The discussions are expected to focus on the Western Sahara conflict and relations between Algeria and Morocco.

Iran

Denial of Cross-border Kidnapping — An "informed source" in the Foreign Ministry denied that 12 Turkish nationals kidnapped by Kurds were transferred across the border into Iran, IRNA reported 2 May.

Naval Exercises Planned — Navy Commander Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan told Tehran radio that the navy is prepared to "stand firm" against hostile moves in the "sensitive and vital" Gulf. While explaining that the navy has "complete self-sufficiency" in training, the commander announced that three sets of training maneuvers will be held this year with the first "joint exercise" scheduled for early summer.

DRA

Babrak Karmal, former PDPA general secretary, is being held at Kabul's central jail, "diplomatic sources" in Islamabad told XINHUA 3 May. Karmal was arrested by order of the Revolutionary Council, the sources added.

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Tehran: 'Reliable Source' Says Karmal Imprisoned

*LD021700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 2 May 87*

[Text] Babrak Karmal, formerly president of the regime in Afghanistan, has been arrested and imprisoned. A reliable source announcing the above to IRNA said: Karmal has been arrested by Afghan security forces on the orders of the Revolutionary Council. He is being kept at Pole Charkhi Prison.

This diplomatic source added: Karmal had been under house arrest and kept incommunicado for several months.

Wakil Sends Message to Perez de Cuellar on Emigres

*LD012057 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
1 May 87*

[Text] A source in the DRA Foreign Ministry reports that Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, has sent a message to New York addressed to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. Here is the text of the message:

Your excellency, as I have informed you in several letters recently, after the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy and its immediate practical realization, a large number of Afghan emigres have returned to the homeland, and even more would be interested in returning if the obstacles created by the Pakistani and Iranian authorities were removed.

In previous letters addressed to you, I have explained, on the one hand, the financial and material resources which have been prepared for the return of Afghan emigres under the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, and on the other hand, presenting information on the living condition of Afghan emigres and the approach of the Pakistani and Iranian authorities toward them. I have presented to you the proposals of the DRA, with consideration of their importance and their effect on the process of the Geneva talks toward achieving a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Parallel to this, (?based) on the peaceloving principles of DRA foreign policy and for a peaceful life which are aimed at normalizing relations with Pakistan and Iran, we have taken the necessary measures via diplomatic channels toward the creation of understanding with the aforementioned countries' authorities.

In spite of these efforts the Pakistani and Iranian authorities have not presented a reply of goodwill to these measures. They have created more obstacles to the return of our compatriots to their homeland.

This time I want to present a specific and open proposal, not [word indistinct] Pakistani and Iranian authorities a propaganda proposal. I request that you contact the Pakistani and Iranian authorities in order to explain our desire for good relations and goodneighborliness, and demand that they allow DRA delegations, consisting of high commission representatives from national reconciliation and their social organizations, to visit

Afghan camps in Iran and Pakistan. The purpose of the visit would be to present to the Pakistani and Iranian authorities a clear picture of the Afghan emigres living conditions and demands, together with a presentation of constructive and specific proposals based on the facts and realities of their present life.

We believe that such a visit would assist, on the one hand, the true emigres to be distinguished from opposition extremists, and on the other hand, in establishing direct contact as the [word indistinct] right of the DRA and Afghan emigres, who are kept by Pakistani and Iranian authorities in certain camps for various reasons, and to comprehensively explain the humanitarian and realistic measures which are being created for the return of Afghan emigres to their homeland.

If, as claimed, the Pakistani and Iranian authorities have difficulty with Afghan emigres in these countries, this visit will undoubtedly help Afghan emigres to freely (?explain) their demands to the DRA delegation. Extra measures would then be taken to create grounds for the return of Afghan emigres without any obstacles, and with the mutual understanding of the Pakistani and Iranian authorities.

This issue would also contribute directly to your efforts for achieving a speedy solution to the situation around Afghanistan, and the reconstruction of goodneighborly relations between the DRA and its neighboring countries, Pakistan and Iran, and toward ensuring peace and stability in the region.

While we are sure that your excellency will inform us of your reputable efforts in this connection, I take this opportunity to renew my best regards to you.

[Signed] Abdol Wakil, foreign minister

Indian External Affairs Minister Tiwari Arrives

LD031234 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Kabul, 3 May (BAKHTAR) — His Excellency Narain Dutt Tiwari, external affairs minister of the Republic of India, arrived in Kabul this morning as head of a delegation at the invitation of Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA foreign affairs minister.

Comrade Abdol Wakil, foreign affairs minister; Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of National Front and head of the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation; Farid Zarif, deputy minister of foreign affairs; a number of other authorities of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Inder Pal Khosla, Indian ambassador, and members of Indian Embassy in Kabul welcomed the delegation at Kabul International Airport.

Wakil Previews Visit

LD040832 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR — The official and friendly visit of Narayan Dutt Tiwari, minister of external affairs of India, to the DRA will certainly contribute to the further expansion

sion and consolidation of relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of India.

This was stated by Abdo! Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA in an interview to PTI here.

Party and state leadership of the DRA will have meetings with the external affairs minister of India during his stay in the DRA.

The foreign minister of the DRA said they will have serious talks on bilateral relations, about DRA's stand towards the situation in the region and world over as well as on matters of mutual interest.

Abdol Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the DRA said that the official and friendly visit of N.D. Tiwari minister of external affairs of India is a continuation of my visit to India made some time ago.

Tiwari Assesses Relations

LD040836 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR — I highly assess the relations existing between the DRA and the Republic of India, said India's minister of external affairs, Narain Dutt Tiwari, to a BAKHTAR reporter on his arrival at Kabul International Airport.

India has always given its support, he added, to the initiatives of the DRA for the stabilisation of the situation in the region. N.D. Tiwari expressed hope that before long Afghanistan will come out as an advanced and powerful country among the nations of the world.

The republic of India has been given [as received] its full support to the efforts of the PDPA and the government of the DRA directed towards the policy of national reconciliation and the cessation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. It is expected, he stressed, that the international community will be devoting much effort for the implementation of this praiseworthy programme.

We expect that Geneva's indirect talks between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan will end in success and [words indistinct] policy of national reconciliation will be implemented in near future.

He hoped to have constructive meetings with Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC and Soltan 'Ali Kehstanzad, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers as well as with the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA.

Holds Talks With Wakil

LD031249 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Kabul, 3 May (BAKHTAR) — Official talks started this morning at the headquarters of the Foreign Affairs Ministry between Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Politburo Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs, and Narain

Dutt Tiwari, Indian external affairs minister. Tiwari arrived today in Kabul as head of a delegation which had come at the invitation of the DRA foreign affairs minister.

During these talks, Comrade Abdol Wakil spoke in detail about the recent developments in the country, particularly the national reconciliation policy and its results. He also discussed the regional situation, and the progress of the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan intended to achieve a political solution for the Afghan situation. Having touched on consolidation and expansion of the mutually beneficial friendly relations and cooperation between the DRA and Indian Republic, he expressed thanks for the official support of the Indian Republic for the national reconciliation process. Comrade Wakil gave the Indian minister a comprehensive briefing on the DRA policy regarding the regional and international issues.

The Indian external affairs minister replied by expressing satisfaction for the current friendly relations with the DRA and expressing interest for their further development, as well as development of cooperation between the DRA and Indian Republic. He once again stressed that the government and people of India support and back the national reconciliation policy and a political solution for the Afghan situation. He detailed his country's stand concerning bilateral relations, regional, and international issues.

During this round of talks, which took place in a climate of mutual understanding and cordiality, various issues of mutual interest between both countries were discussed. Both sides specified their views on these issues once again.

Tiwari Meets Friendship Society

LD032204 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpts] Narain Dutt Tiwari, the minister of external affairs of the Republic of India, and his accompanying delegation this afternoon took part in a meeting of the Afghan-India Friendship Society at Storay Palace in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the beginning of the meeting, Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Front [NF] and President of the Afghan-India Society, gave a speech about the role and historical importance of the friendly relations between the people of Afghanistan and India. On behalf of the Afghan-India Friendship Society, he recalled the historically rich and fraternal relations between the two countries, saying: The people of Afghanistan and India have had friendly and good relations for a very long time, and this friendship has strengthened and expanded with time. [passage omitted]

The Indian minister of external affairs spoke of the friendly relations between India and Afghanistan that go back more than 2,000 years. He said that the India-Afghan Friendship Society, which is active in Delhi, is organizing various meetings and programs that reflect the wishes of both people. These societies are the means to increase friendship, fraternity, and achieve the common goals of our countries.

He added that in the contemporary world, the most important common elements we share are our membership in the Non-aligned Movement and our approach to international questions, which emanates from this membership. Our position on international matters, such as nuclear disarmament, including the Delhi declaration issued when M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, visited Delhi and the declaration by the leaders of the six countries of the [word indistinct] of the world, which was resolutely supported by the leaders of the DRA, [word indistinct] our opinions on these matters are in complete accord with each other. [passage omitted]

The DRA ambassador to Delhi, Abdol Samad Azhar; the Indian ambassador and representative extraordinary in Kabul, I.P. Khosla; party and state cadres; members of the Afghan-India Friendship Society; and members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in the meeting.

Abdollahim Hatef, president of the Central Council of the NF, chairman of the DRA Supreme Commission of National Reconciliation, and chairman of the Afghan-India Friendship Society met this afternoon in his office with [name indistinct], chairman of the India-Afghan Friendship Society, who recently arrived in Kabul at the head of a society delegation. In the meeting, held in the presence of the official in charge of international relations in the NF Central Council and the responsible secretary of the Afghan-India Friendship Society, the friendly relations and mutual all-round bilateral cooperation were discussed. At the meeting, Abdollahim Hatef also spoke in detail to the delegation about the realization of national reconciliation in the country and the work and activity of the Central Council of the DRA's NF.

Calls for Political Settlement

*BK040341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
4 May 87*

[Text] India has called for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan problem. This is to establish durable peace in Asia. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said this in Kabul at a banquet hosted in his honor by the Afghan foreign minister, Mr Wakil. He said there can be no military solution to the problem and expressed the hope that the UN initiative will make further progress in the coming months. Mr Tiwari said India is convinced that the sovereign, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan can make a major contribution toward peace in this part of Asia. He pointed out that India always extended full support for a peaceful political solution to the issues that troubled the region. This will help its people devote themselves to the urgent task of socioeconomic development. This is why India on several occasions expressed its opposition to all kinds of interference in Afghanistan. Mr Tiwari also pledged India's assistance in Afghanistan's economic development. He said India will consolidate its existing projects in areas like public health, small industry, and culture.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent Harish Awasthi, reporting from Kabul, says Mr Tiwari earlier had wide ranging talks with Mr Wakil for over 2 hours. Regional issues and bilateral matters were discussed. Our correspondent says the talks centered round the Afghan problem and the efforts of the

Kabul government for a national reconciliation with the rebels. Mr Wakil told Mr Tiwari of the success and difficulties in achieving a rapport with the rebels. Mr Tiwari expressed India's appreciation of the efforts and said New Delhi regards them as a positive sign. He conveyed India's full support to the Geneva proximity talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan for resolving the tangle.

Mr Tiwari's other engagements included calling on the Afghan prime minister, Mr Keshtmand, in the afternoon and addressing the Afghan-India Friendship Society. He told the society that India and Afghanistan share common views on many global issues.

In the meantime, the Indo-Afghan joint commission had a preliminary round of discussions to identify areas of further cooperation. The discussions will continue today.

Meets With Keshtmand

LD040825 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kabul, May 3, BAKHTAR — Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA met with N.D. Tiwari, Indian minister of external affairs who is on an official and friendly visit to the DRA at the head of a delegation today.

Talking on historically abided relations between Afghanistan and India, the chairman of Council of Ministers of the DRA apprised the Indian delegation concerning the latest developments in the DRA as well as the successful process of national reconciliation going on in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

N.D. Tiwari, the head of Indian delegation while emphasizing on further expansion and consolidation of friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries, expressed the full support of the Indian people and government to the policy of national reconciliation.

N.D. Tiwari minister of external affairs of India said that the Republic of India will spare no effort for deepening of the friendly cooperation of India with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Cooperation Agreement Previewed

*BK040930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
4 May 87*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, is continuing wide-ranging discussions with Afghan leaders in Kabul on the 2d day of his 2-day visit to Afghanistan. He is meeting the Afghan leader, Dr Najib, this afternoon. He will also meet Mr Amanuddin Amin, deputy chairman of the council of ministers, and Mr Aziz, the minister of planning.

Meanwhile, the Indo-Afghan Joint Economic Commission is busy finalizing an agreement to be signed later today. It is likely to cover a variety of subjects in which the two countries will

expand their cooperation. Our special correspondent, Harish Awasthi, reports from Kabul that the agreement is expected to cover areas other than trade such as Indian projects in Afghanistan, art, music and culture. The Indian delegation includes experts in public health, civil construction, culture, commerce and trade.

The Afghanistan foreign minister, Mr Abdol Wakil, has said Pakistan's military collusion with the United States threatens to destabilize the situation in this part of Asia. American military

aid to Pakistan is encouraging it to pursue an aggressive military policy toward India and Afghanistan. Speaking at a dinner in honor of the visiting external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari, last night, Mr Wakil said Pakistan's acquisition of AWACS is part of its gunboat diplomacy against its neighbors. He said Pakistan should be aware of the grave consequences of such a policy.

In his speech, Mr Tiwari has called for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan problem. He said this will help establish durable peace in Asia. He also pledged India's assistance in Afghanistan's economic development.

Gandhi: Government Answerable Only to Parliament
BK020354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
 2 May 87

[Text] The prime minister has declared that his government will not allow the constitution to be subverted by individuals, however highly placed they may be. If anyone tries to interpret the Constitution for his personal gain, the country cannot allow it.

Mr Gandhi was addressing a mammoth May Day rally at Salem in Tamil Nadu last night. Mr Gandhi pointed out that the Constitution had been functioning smoothly for the last 37 years. New interpretations of the Constitution cannot be given by newsmen or any individual, however learned or highly placed they may be. They are forums and traditions in the country to interpret constitutional provisions.

The prime minister asserted that his government was answerable only to Parliament and the people and nobody else. Nobody is above Parliament. All are creatures of the Constitution and bound by it. Mr Gandhi said that democracy has been destroyed by misleading interpretations of the Constitution in some countries close to it. This will not be allowed to happen in India.

The prime minister also described as baseless and wild the allegations of corruption against people in high places and termed them as a new type of pressure. He said such attempts are being made to push the country back from the path of development and bound by it. Mr Gandhi said that democracy has been destroyed by misleading interpretations of the Constitution in some countries close to it. This will not be allowed to happen in India.

Later speaking to newsmen at Tiruchirapalli airport, Mr Gandhi said he does not expect any constitutional crisis because of the recent developments. He said the country has a strong and stable Constitution and it will withstand anything.

About the forthcoming presidential election, the prime minister said he had already started a dialogue with the opposition parties with an open mind on a common candidate.

In his 90-minute May Day speech at Salem, the prime minister touched upon several subjects, including the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The prime minister said the government in the island has killed thousands of innocent people recently. He called upon all concerned to come to the negotiating table to solve the problem. Mr Gandhi commended the workers for their tremendous contribution to the country's development. He said the nation is in need of skilled and qualified workers and the government is working in this direction.

Zail Singh Denies Attempt To Damage Constitution
BK021256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
 2 May 87

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has said he will never allow the country's democratic institutions to be weakened by any forces. He said he has taken an oath to defend, protect and preserve the constitution of the country. This he would do ear-

nestly and fearlessly. The president was speaking at a function in Bombay today.

The president cautioned the people against forces trying to divide and destabilize the country. He said no power in the world can destabilize India. The government and the people of the country will fight these forces to maintain unity.

The president said that attempts are being made to create doubts in the minds of the people that there was a tendency to damage the nation's democratic set up. Giani Zail Singh said he would like these doubts to be put to rest once and for all.

The president presented the one lakh rupee ahimsa [nonviolence] award to Mr Morarji Desai [former prime minister]. The function was held to mark the golden jubilee of Acharya Tulsi [hindu saint].

Further on Singh Reassurance

BK031259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
 3 May 87

[Text] The president has said there should be no misgiving that he is trying to interpret the Constitution in a particular way. At a function in New Delhi today, he said he is committed to uphold the democratic setup as enshrined in the Constitution. Inaugurating the 12th centenary celebrations of Guru Shankaracharya [Hindu saint], Giani Zail Singh said there could be differences of opinion in a democratic setup but not on the principles laid down in the Constitution. Anyone who dissents should not be construed as an enemy, and his suggestions for improvement should not be misunderstood.

The president described Shankaracharya as a pioneer of national integration who broke all the barriers of religion and language and brought about spiritual unity in the country. He recalled that many others followed the footsteps of Shankaracharya and consolidated this unity. Giani Zail Singh said the country's integrity is based on this rich spiritual and cultural heritage and any attempt to break or weaken it can never succeed. There should be no attempt to create differences in the name of religion or language.

Rules Out Dismissal of Gandhi

BK031557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
 3 May 87

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has categorically denied reports in a section of the press that he has any intention of dismissing Mr Rajiv Gandhi from the office of prime minister.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] statement issued today says that the president wishes it to be known in the clearest terms that these reports and comments are utterly devoid of any basis.

The statement says the president has so far refrained from commenting on these reports and also on conjectures concerning what transpired in his recent meetings with the prime minister. But speculations on the dismissal of the prime minister are so

grave a matter that they cannot be allowed to remain uncontradicted any longer.

Government To Test Long-Range SAM in June

BK031317 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 3 (AFP) — India is to test a long-range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM), capable of carrying a one-ton warhead, defence officials said here Sunday.

A count-down has begun for the test of a "Prithvi" (earth) missile in June at an undisclosed test range, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

The missile, equipped with an inertial navigation system, has a range of 150 kilometres (93 miles) and is second in a project to develop four guided missiles, officials said.

The government told Parliament Thursday it would shortly test a short-range SAM guided missile called "Trishul" (trident).

The truck-mounted Trishul, with a range of nine kilometres (5.6 miles), has been tested four times and is scheduled to go into production in 1990.

The state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation which launched the Integrated Guided Missile Project (IGMP) in 1983 to produce Indian missiles, is also planning to test a medium-range missile called "Akash" (sky) in 1988, the spokesman said.

The Akash will have a range of 27 kilometres (17 miles) and is intended to be used by both the Airforce and Navy in varying roles.

Scientists plan to conclude the IGMP project with a third-generation "fire-and-forget" anti-tank missile called the "Nag" (cobra), with a range of four kilometres (two and a half miles).

Production of the Nag, Akash and Prithvi missiles is scheduled to begin by 1993, the spokesman said.

Development of the SAM's will add a new dimension to the traditional rivalry between India and Pakistan, observers said.

India has been trying to build its own SAM's since 1974, but had to end an 800-million dollar project code-named "Project Devil" due to shortages of material and scientists.

The IGMP is India's first step towards cutting imports from the Soviet Union, its main arms supplier, observers said.

Details of Missiles Revealed

BK031611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] The defense research and development laboratory which successfully tested India's first surface-to-air missile has at present three more missiles at an advance stage of development.

A spokesman of the laboratory said they are being developed under the integrated guided missile project.

Preparations are now on to flight test next month India's first surface-to-surface missile. The liquid fuel missile can drop a 1-ton warhead at a target 150 kms away.

A medium-range missile capable of tackling multiple targets will be tested next year.

A third generation antitank missile is also under development at the laboratory. It will be able to destroy a tank at a distance of 4 kms without any explosives.

According to the spokesman, all the four missiles will enter the production stage by 1993.

Pakistan Plays 'Afghan Card' With AWACS

BK020812 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 1 May 87

[Commentary by foreign affairs analyst Uma Shanker Phadnis on "Spotlight" program: "AWACS for Pakistan"]

[Text] Although there are some technical hurdles in the way, it seems all too clear that Pakistan's acquisition of the sophisticated airborne warning and control system — or the AWACS plane — is now a foregone conclusion. The U.S. Senate [as heard], with a majority of 11 to 8, has accepted the U.S. Administration's recommendation to it to approve the supply of AWACS to Pakistan, overriding India's objections to it, which were voiced in the committee by a number of senators. Because of this certainty of Pakistan acquiring AWACS planes, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, assured the Rajya Sabha that India would not hesitate to take [steps] to meet the threat posed by Pakistan by obtaining the AWACS planes. Understandably, Mr Pant declined to spell out what steps India would be taking.

In securing the Senate committee's approval, Pakistan played the Afghan card, and the U.S. Administration appears to play on the susceptibility of some of the doubting senators that the supply of AWACS has become central to the Afghan policy of President Ronald Reagan of keeping the pressure on the Soviets by accentuating Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan. However, with experience of the three wars behind us, it cannot be a matter of speculation that Pakistan intends to and will use AWACS against India. In fact, with assurance behind it that AWACS would be available, there has been perceptible hardening of the Pakistani approach to India, and there is marked tone of belligerency in the statements by both the president, General Ziaul Haq, and the prime minister, Mr Junejo. And it should not be surprising if this development will inhibit further the process of normalization of relations between the two countries.

Apart from this fallout of AWACS on Indo-Pakistan relation, a cause for regional concern, which will unmistakably surface in the coming months, would be the willingness Pakistan has shown by adopting the lease-now-buy-later approach to the AWACS supplies. Thus, in a secret letter to Mr Reagan, Mr Junejo has urged him to consider the question of leasing AWACS plane, as

outright sale would take considerable time to materialize. Here again Mr Junejo has played the Afghan card. The letter, perhaps leaked deliberately to the press, has said that AWACS is necessary — and urgently at that — in view of the increasing tempo of Soviet-Afghan attacks on the mujahidin on the Pakistani border.

If the Reagan administration accedes to the Pakistani request, it would mean that the AWACS would be manned by American personnel and its operations controlled by the United States. Curiously, to overcome a legal difficulty, which could prevent the U.S. Administration from responding favorably to the Pakistani request, Mr Junejo has reportedly assured the administration that the AWACS would not fly deep into Afghan territory. This is because, according to the American law military equipment cannot be leased and its personnel deployed to third countries if there is a possibility of the loss of American lives. And there is certainly such a danger because the Soviets would deploy matching equipment to combat AWACS flight. They should, they take place. [sentence as veard].

The Soviet Union has indeed warned the United States and Pakistan against the use of AWACS along the Afghan-Pakistan border and reminded both Washington and Islamabad of the shooting down of a spy plane in 1960. Under the circumstances, the question becomes relevant. If AWACS does not become operational against the Soviets and the Afghans, against whom it is intended, the Pak-American move has thus inevitably brought in the consequence of the South Asian region becoming highly vulnerable to superpower military confrontation.

This was what Mr Pant had in mind when he told the Rajya Sabha that the number of warships in the Indian Ocean has gone up from 12 in 1975 to 100 in 1987, an increase that makes a mockery of the UN resolution calling for an Indian Ocean conference to consider ways and means of rendering the area free of militarization. More than that, it should not be surprising if these moves result in the intensification of domestic conflicts in the region with each superpower vying with the other for a position of strategic advantage in the area. It should not be surprising, indeed, if in Pakistan itself the move causes an exacerbation of the conflict to which the country is prone. It should not be surprising either if pressures build up in the countries of the region to dilute the nonaligned approach, to which all of them are committed presently, by adopting a policy of tilt toward one or the other powers and in the process affect the prospects of the region being free from interregional tension. Everything said thus, apart from the danger posed to India directly, the induction of AWACS will predictably have far-reaching regional and global repercussions.

Foreign Secretary Protests Jayewardene Remarks
BK011607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
1 May 87

[Text] India has taken strong exception to the reported remarks of the Sri Lankan president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, describing Indian Government's policy toward his country as Hitlerian. The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, conveyed to the Sri Lanka high commissioner in New Delhi today that use of such language

by Mr Jayewardene is totally unacceptable to the government. He said India has unequivocally condemned violence from both sides. The government's stand has been made clear by the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, in parliament. India is willing to assist the two parties to arrive at an acceptable political solution. The 19 December proposals should be considered by both sides in right earnest.

Meanwhile, India wants both the Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan Government to exercise extreme restraint.

According to an official spokesman, Mr Menon told the Sri Lanka high commissioner that most of the Tamils in Jaffna are innocent people and have nothing to do with fighting there. Tamil Nadu's inevitable concern for the suffering people flows from the Sri Lankan Government's own actions. India has also expressed concern over the activities of the external agencies, particularly the Israeli secret agency, Mossad, which is interested in continuing the tension in the area. Its activities must be kept under control. Mossad has been engaged by the Sri Lankan Government to train its personnel in curbing terrorism.

HINDU Analyzes Government Role in Tamil Issue
BK031151 Delhi THE HINDU in English 25 Apr 87 p 8

[Editorial: "The Sri Lankan Tragedy: What India Must do"]

[Text] The time of troubles for the Tamil people of Sri Lanka has entered a dangerous new phase with the state carrying out a series of barbarous "punitive" strikes from the air against innocent civilians residing in the North and the East — the traditional Tamil areas which have been treated, by official policy and for "reasons of state", as enemy territory. It speaks volumes for the ethical-political conscience and judgment of the UNP regime that having failed — through its own duplicity and also in response to the chauvinish political dynamic of the island's mainstream politics — to make a negotiated settlement possible and having landed the Sri Lanka people, Sinhala, Tamil and others, into a fratricidal mess, it is now seeking to prove its credentials by unleashing the punitive resources of the state's armed forces against targets that no one in possession of elementary commonsense and fairness would recognise as "terrorist" or armed militant ("LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students]" targets. Official propaganda and crude attempts to manipulate information cannot succeed in diverting attention from what is happening in Sri Lanka. Using air force planes and helicopters to bomb from the air and using the sanctuary of army camps for blind artillery shelling and mortar bombing speak to the nature of the "two track" strategy pursued by the Sri Lankan Government towards the Tamil question in Sri Lanka. To add gross insult to long-festering injury, the Athulathmudalis are telling India and the world that a limited military option in being pursued to pave the way for a peaceful political settlement. As if this were not enough, Mr. R. Premadasa, the Prime Minister, has informed the Sri Lankan Parliament that the Government has decided, in effect, to suspend all efforts to find a negotiated settlement and that proposals for a political solution would be considered only after "peace" was restored.

In all fairness, it must be noted that the appalling civilian toll taken by state terrorism over the past couple of days has come on top of an act of extremist viciousness which caused a very powerful, high-tech explosion in the heart of Colombo on Tuesday and took a heart-rending toll of innocent lives, including children and women. Earlier, a cold-blooded ambush massacre of Sinhala bus passengers, including a large number of army personnel in this case, came in the wake of prolonged hostilities by the security forces in the North and the East which targeted, overwhelmingly, Tamil civilians in the name of combating "terrorism". The Sri Lankan Government has been quick to accuse the LTTE and its ally, EROS, in relation to these atrocities, and these militant organisations have been equally quick to deny any hand in these actions which have brought about a qualitative deterioration in the overall picture. In the Sri Lankan Parliament, interestingly, an SLFP M.P. reported suspicions among the people that the bomb blast at the Colombo bus stand was an "inside job" with Israeli help. Wherever the responsibility for these actions lies, there is no doubt that from a democratic standpoint a vicious circle has been on from 1983, violence has escalated in the most recent period, chauvinism and extremism have deepened their hold and the Island's polity and society are in full-fledged crisis. Specifically, the alienation of the besieged and battered Tamil people has been matched on the other side by growing anti-Tamil feelings as a political and social phenomenon and anger and bitterness against the Jayewardene Government — which must be deeply worried about its future. But why has the Government of India, which has lately come up with some selective reactions to atrocities, failed immediately to condemn the Sri Lankan Government's actions? Opposition MPs have rightly been exercised over this question in Parliament.

But analysis must look beyond diplomatic statements and appearances and, if this is done, the following becomes clear. In the face of a sharp worsening of a frontline problem, official Indian policy lies, if not in a shambles, in a state of passive adhocism, confusion and ineptness. The policy performance has failed, by a long chalk, to measure up to the crisis. It is understandable that, given the internal problems and the crisis of confidence and credibility the Rajiv Gandhi administration faces, Sri Lanka has not exactly headed the priority list — even if the February-March posture and rushabout style suggested that. But what has become obvious is that the Rajiv Gandhi policy towards Sri Lanka has got into this situation because it has attempted, superficially and incompetently, to find a quick fix without a coherent framework of solidarity with an oppressed people, without a realistic baseline to guide the mediating effort, and without a strategic direction to pursue. Ruling out Eelam — and on this the democratic political consensus in India has been a major policy asset — and promoting a peaceful political settlement within a united Sri Lanka do provide the correct framework, but in relation to the specific dynamics of an intractable problem these represent only a general statement of policy and guiding principles. The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has revealed, in his public statements and in his fitful interactions with the key players on both sides, superficiality and a failure to come to grips with the substance of the problem and the issues, nuances and sensitivities involved. As a direct result of all this, and given the switch-on-switch-off style, official Indian policy has equivocated and wavered. It has tended to equate the victims of the crisis — the Sri Lankan Tamils — with the aggressors —

the Government of Sri Lanka and its allies, internal and external — and has blamed now the Sri Lankan Government, now the Tamil militants without any clear indication of a recommended Indian solution except some quick fix. The paradox of the situation is that, even as progress on the substantive issues seemed to be in the offing, the situation has been allowed to deteriorate sharply and rapidly — because neither the essential requirements on the ground nor the many gaps along the negotiating track have been addressed seriously enough. For this state of affairs, official Indian policy must accept a fairly heavy share of responsibility. With inept and confused guidance from the very top, the Bhandaris and the Chidambarams — who have, over the past two years, handled the details of the official Indian approach to the substantive issues of politics, society, history and psychology involved in Sri Lanka's ethnic crisis and also sensitive relations with a Government and, on the other side, with "militants" and "moderates" — have managed to lower the credibility of the policy and weaken the solidarity element in the picture.

The disturbing information available is this. At the Minister of State level, according to Sri Lankan Tamil sources, the message was conveyed to the LTTE chief, Mr. V. Prabhakaran, i. Bangalore and elsewhere in late 1986, that the Jayewardene Government had virtually threatened to kill thousands of Tamil civilians in pursuit of a military solution, unless a quick political settlement could be worked out; and that India, given its policy perspective, would not be able to do anything about this. It was also suggested that the "Seventh Fleet" might enter the picture if a quick deal was not struck, and that the Government of India would be helpless in the face of this development. It was no wonder that confidence in the Government of India's mediating role declined — during the very period political leverage and influence with both sides needed to be decisively strengthened. The line that attempted to push a series of formulae and package deals down the throat of the Tamil militants, without an appreciation of the complexities of the issues and without putting any effective pressure on the Sri Lankan Government, led logically to the present situation of passivity, helplessness and chaos. Even on the difficult question of the unit of devolution, what could there have been in common between the "trifurcation" proposal brought by the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J.R. Jayewardene, to Bangalore in November and the December 19 framework ideas which did represent substantive progress? How could a Government paying serious attention to the issues involved in the crisis promote both frameworks, with equal enthusiasm, within a period of less than two months?

Despite the internal preoccupations, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet must treat the present danger in Sri Lanka as a high priority problem for India and the region. They must honestly take stock of the results of the 1985-87 policy and come up with a serious *modus operandi* for bringing an end to the senseless hostilities — while continuing to rule out any truck with either the Eelam demand or any madcap idea of finding any kind of "military solution" to the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict. If necessary, they must bring about a change of official players and upgrade the mediating effort: the option of involving someone with foreign policy and political experience combined with the qualities of patience and perspective must be examined. In addition, the person entrusted with the responsibility must be given all the policy and organisational support and must be

allowed to work more or less full time on the problem. Along with the bodies and the rest of the mess, the negative results of the 1985-87 Indian policy performance must be cleared up. Above all, Indian policy-makers must realise that this nation has a deep strategic and democratic interest in finding a lasting solution to the Sri Lankan crisis and that it is big enough and resourceful enough to handle the challenge.

Foreign Minister Goes to Kabul on Official Visit

*BK030311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
3 May 87*

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, left New Delhi this morning on a 3-day visit to Afghanistan. He will attend the eighth session of the Indo-Afghan joint commission on trade, economic, and technical cooperation in Kabul. He will exchange views with Afghan leaders on matters of mutual interest. The progress of proximity talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan are likely to figure in the talks. Before returning to New Delhi on Tuesday, Mr Tiwari will lay the foundation stone for the expansion of the hospital of the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Care. One hundred more beds will be added to the 250-bed hospital.

Steps Taken To Increase Trade With USSR

*BK020859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
2 May 87*

[Text] Steps have been taken to increase the Indo-Soviet trade turnover by 2 and 1/2 times in the next 5 years. More items like

chemicals, power, coal, steel, electronics, and railways are to be included in the trade basket.

The Confederation of Engineering Industries, Indo-Soviet Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade have been asked to do a detailed market survey on this.

The service sector has also been identified as a new area for expanding bilateral trade. Indian companies are likely to get contracts for construction of three hostel projects at Tashkent, Sumarkand, and Bokhara in the Soviet Union.

Our correspondent reports that India's trade relations with the Soviet Union had assumed a new significance following the slowdown in world trade growth mainly because of stagnation in the industrialized countries. The Soviet Union provides an important market for several Indian commodities and manufactured goods, including tea, coffee, tobacco, textiles, leather goods, and machinery.

3 Terrorists Killed, Arms Seized in Punjab

*BK030300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
3 May 87*

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police early this morning in manawla area in Ferozepur district. According to the Punjab police chief, Mr Ribeiro, the police party on nakabandi [patrol] duty was fired upon when it signaled the truck to stop. In the exchange of fire which followed, three terrorists traveling in the truck were killed. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including a sten gun, have been recovered.

NEPAL

PRC Vice Premier Qiao Shi To Visit Late May*BK031251 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 3 May 87*

[Text] Kathmandu, May 3 (AFP) — Chinese Vice Premier Qiao Shi is to make a five-day official visit here in late May and early June, a high-placed Nepalese Foreign Ministry source said Sunday.

Mr. Qiao, 63, is expected to arrive here on May 28 at the head of a delegation including senior vice ministers from China's Foreign and Overseas Economic Cooperation Ministries and other senior officials, the source said.

During the trip, Mr. Qiao was to confer with King Birendra, Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, who also holds defense portfolio, and Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyay.

The visit was expected to improve Sino-Nepalese ties, which were dampened following Nepal's abrupt cancellation last year of a contract with China for construction at Kohalpur Banwasa of a 207-kilometre (124-mile) stretch of Nepal's 1040 kilometre (650 mile) national highway.

Nepal cancelled the contract under pressure from India, though the Chinese price was almost 40 per cent cheaper than other bids. India then agreed to build the road for Nepal under a bilateral aid agreement.

A long delay in finalising a Sino-Nepalese contract for construction of a 100-kilometre (62-mile) power grid between Biratnagar and Jhapa Districts 390 kilometres (245 miles) southeast of Kathmandu under a World Bank loan has also displeased China, the sources said.

Sources said India had been pushing Nepal to deny the contact to Chinese construction companies to keep them at least 30-kilometres (18-miles) from the Indo-Nepalese border.

China's price for the job was 30 to 40 percent lower than competing bids, but India has told Nepal this is a "political price" related to increased Sino-Indian border tensions.

Mr. Qiao was expected to assure Nepal of China's cooperation in resisting New Delhi's pressure, the sources said. He may also finalize the date of King Birendra's proposed state visit to Beijing, possibly in September.

Analysts said that the landlocked Himalayan kingdom was being squeezed between its two large neighbours but would seek to maintain harmony with India while acting as an independent sovereign state.

SRI LANKA

Police Charge Crowd in 'Isolated' Incident 1 May*BK011100 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1030 GMT 1 May 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 01 (LANKA PUWATH) — Today, May Day went off peacefully, in Sri Lanka but for an isolated incident.

The deputy inspector general of police (metropolitan) Neil Weerasinghe told LANKA PUWATH this afternoon that the situation was peaceful, but for one incident where the police had to fire tear gas and baton charge a crowd in order to disperse them at Union Place, Slave Island in Colombo. [passage omitted]

The government had earlier requested that all May Day rallies be postponed to May 22, National Heroes Day, due to the danger of terrorist setting off time bombs similar to the one which exploded at Pettah on April 21.

Two Die in Shooting 2 May*BK020754 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0654 GMT 2 May 87*

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 2 (LANKA PUWATH) — Two persons died and several, including policemen were injured when police were forced to baton charge, tear gas, fire rubber bullets and finally fire live ammunition in the air to quell an unruly mob which defied a government ban on May Day rallies demonstrations and processions last evening at Narahenpitiya, Colombo 14.

Police said that about 1000 persons had gathered and held a meeting at the Abhayarama Temple, the chief incumbent of which is Ven. Murutewe Ananda, leader of a nurses union. Among the speakers was the leader of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) Dinesh Gunawardene.

The meeting was organised by the Maubima Surekeemey Sanvidanaya (Organisation for the Protection of the Motherland), which has been actively critical of the government on the ethnic issue.

The dead men were identified as Leslie Wennewatte of Kelaniya and Ranawaka, according to police.

One of the four injured was reported to be in a serious condition.

The Ven Hedigalle Panatissa Maha Nayake Thera had called the meeting to an end and exhorted the gathering to move out of the temple peacefully, but, a section of the crowd had become unruly.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) (Metropolitan) Neil Weerasinghe told LANKA PUWATH that Superintendent of

Police (SP) Gafoor Who received a head injury, (despite wearing a helmet when the mob hurled stones at the police) had told the MEP leader Dinesh Gunawardene, who is a member of Parliament, after the meeting ended that six private passenger coaches had been laid out for those who attended the meeting to leave the temple. This offer had been turned down.

He said the crowd was determined to leave in a procession.

Police said that could not be permitted. Then a group of persons in robes came out carrying banners and marched forward.

"The police stood in their path and asked them to get back. They refused to do that. Then there was a hail of stones thrown on police who fired some tear gas shells", the DIG said.

Mr Weerasinghe said that at this stage the temple bells were rung and neighbours were incited with the allegation that the police were attacking the temple.

"Stones came from all sides. Police fired all the tear gas they carried and followed with a baton charge. When the situation could not be controlled, rubber bullets were fired", he said.

The DIG said that live ammunition was used only as a last resort. The whole incident took about twenty minutes.

Once the police opened fire the situation was brought under control. The crowd first refused to use the coaches provided to leave the scene and were allowed to go in batches of five.

"The last 25 or 30 drove off in a coach".

Four policemen had to be hospitalised, Mr Weerasinghe said.

In addition, a crowd leaving a May Day meeting held earlier yesterday at the Union Place, Colombo 2, headquarters of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party in which the Communist Party, the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party and the Nava Lanka Sama Samaja Party participated, was also tear gassed and baton charged by police, as they defied the ban on demonstrations.

Here, too, police said they were attacked with stones.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party had held a meeting inside its headquarters at Darley Road and those attending it dispersed after it ended.

Meanwhile, police said a crowd of university students had dispersed at Kandy and returned to the Peradeniya Residential University campus, after police spoke with their leaders.

A crowd of about 50 persons which gathered near the Communist Party headquarters at Galle also dispersed.

The government had earlier requested that all May Day rallies be postponed to May 22, National Heroes Day, due to the danger of terrorist setting off time bombs similar to the one which exploded at Pettah on April 21.

India 'Tried To Distort' Prime Minister's Speech
BK011417 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1306 GMT
1 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 01 (LANKA PUWATH) — Prime Minister R Premadasa addressing a largely attended meeting at Galgamuwa on April 29th following the opening of a series of development projects said that India had tried to distort his speech in parliament on April 23rd to mean that Sri Lanka was trying to force a military solution.

What he had said was that the security forces were engaged in is maintaining law and order when certain groups of terrorists are engaged in mass murder and destruction.

The prime minister said "Sri Lanka is a free and sovereign state. We implement our laws within our country and have every right to ensure security of all sections of the people and take steps to improve their living conditions. When we do that how can anyone allege that we are seeking a military solution. Have we found fault with India when they took harsh measures against terrorism in India? We don't want to interfere in the internal security of any country", said the prime minister.

Mr Premadasa said that even the Indian press is now finding fault with India for allowing Sri Lankan terrorists to behave they way they did in causing murder and havoc in the guise of winning rights for Tamils. *The Hindustan Times* and *The Statesmen* newspapers have criticised India's attitude in allowing the terrorists to operate from India to cause this disruption. India should at least heed the advice given by the Indian press.

The prime minister said that it is an internationally recognised practice that no country should encourage persons who were trying to destabilise another country by resorting to violence. It is well known that Sri Lankan terrorists operate from India and are ferrying arms and ammunition from India.

The Madras government, is understood to have announced aid to Sri Lankan Terrorists. Does this not tantamount to interference in our internal affairs. If India had taken a strong stand at the beginning in containing terrorists there the Sri Lanka Government could have maintained peace which is so essential for any political solution to be arrived at. By antagonising the people through violent acts from the start can they expect the necessary peaceful climate to be created?

"Our country is a non-aligned and a democratic country which had not even dreamt of such violence started in the guise of winning ethnic rights. By such actions the terrorists have even worsened the conditions of peace-loving Tamils killing their own people who would not subscribe to their violent motives. When we try to ensure security all we get are threats" said the prime minister.

Mr Premadasa said that they would appeal to the world to judge whether this attitude of one country allowing terrorists attacking another country to go scot free to engage in their violent acts is justifiable.

"The time has come" said the prime minister, "to show the world that what we are fighting for is to safeguard the sovereignty and unity of the country where all sections of the people could live enjoying equal rights and facilities to come up in life.

The question the Sri Lankan people are asking is why the army and the security forces cannot contain these unlawful and terrorist acts. The fact is that because they get assistance from outside and ferry arms and ammunition from south India.

The prime minister reiterated that if a political solution had to be evolved there had to be peace and it is the duty of the government to ensure the peace in the face of violent acts. And it is only the security forces who can act to ensure peace, law and order.

The prime minister said that they hope to establish 250 pradesheeya sabhas [provincial councils] in every assistant government agent's (AGAS) division from 1st January next year. Elections to them would be held this year. These sabhas will ensure self rule or the grama rajyas [village rulers] in each of these areas so that elected leaders could work to solve problems in the areas and speed up development work.

The prime minister said that the pradesheeya sabhas will help to produce young leaders from the villages to work for the development of the areas. At present this power is shared by only 168 members of parliament working for a population of 16 million people. With the pradesheeya sabhas every area will get the benefit of the service of several elected representatives.

With the decentralisation of power to the pradesheeya sabhas problems of the people and the areas could be solved quickly by understanding the problems in the correct perspective as problems vary from area to area.

Daily Scores Indian Move To Aid Tamils

BR031039 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0540 GMT 3 May 87

["OANA/POLL" item — quotation mark: as received]

[Text] Colombo, May 03 (LANKA PUWATH) — The mass circulation English newspaper *The Island* in this morning's edition carries an editorial titled "Surrendering to the South" which states that by choosing to endorse Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran's [MGR] opportunistic politicking the Indian Government has again buckled under the pressures of the Tamil south. The Sri Lanka Government has every right to treat the Tamil Nadu action as being hostile to the country's interest and an infringement on the sovereignty of a neighbouring state.

The following is the text of *The Island's* editorial:

"A report from New Delhi appearing in today's issue of this newspaper says that the Indian Government has rejected Sri Lanka's protest at the move by the Tamil Nadu state government to send aid to Sri Lanka on the pretext that the Sri Lanka Government was not anxious to help the Tamil people of the northern and eastern provinces. PTI, the Indian national news

agency, has quoted a government spokesman as saying that this was an inevitable response to the "economic blockade" imposed by the Sri Lanka Government of the Jaffna Peninsula.

Such conduct on the part of India can only worsen the already deteriorating relations between India and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka had a right to expect that India would have seen the position in the proper light and brought the Tamil Nadu state government, which appears to be hell-bent on provocative actions, to heel. By endorsing Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran's irresponsible and dangerous politicking the Rajiv Gandhi administration has again demonstrated that it will go to any lengths to curry political favour in the Indian south.

The argument of an "economic blockade" is only a specious veil for Tamil Nadu's real intentions. It is not that MGR does not know that among the Tamils he is seeking to help are organised and armed terrorists whose intransigence and provocative actions have made it virtually impossible to rationally consider let alone evolve a solution for the problem of the Tamil people.

He knows that it is the hospitality extended by the Tamil Nadu state government which has emboldened the terrorist groups and provided them with the base for carrying out strikes against not merely soldiers but increasingly now helpless and unarmed civilians in all parts of Sri Lanka. But Mr Ramachandran also knows that if he does not beat the Sri Lanka Tamil drum loud enough his hated rival Mr Karunanidhi will not hesitate to expose his bleeding heart in full view of the Tamil Nadu populace. Hence Mr Ramachandran's antics.

By choosing to endorse Mr Ramachandran's opportunistic politicking the Indian Government has again buckled under the pressures of the Tamil south. It is true that the political party which Mr Ramachandran leads is in alliance with the ruling Congress (I) Party but this does not surely mean that the Indian Government has to surrender to every pressure from MGR? As Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi will be making a grievous error if he is unable or unwilling to place India's greater interests as embodied in bi-lateral relations with another country (in this case Sri Lanka) above the parish pump politicking of the Madras wallahs.

This is the crux of the matter. The Sri Lanka Government cannot be faulted if it interprets Mr Ramachandran's move and New Delhi's endorsement of it as support and encouragement offered to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] which is today holding the Sri Lankan nation to ransom. The LTTE is not merely blocking any prospects of a political settlement to the crisis in Sri Lanka but also substantially decimating the Tamil people by their murderous assaults on fellow terrorist groups.

The Sri Lanka Government has every right to treat the Tamil Nadu action as being hostile to the country's interests and an infringement on the sovereignty of a neighbouring state.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi might still have a long way more to go to reach political maturity but he is no tyro plying at politics but the leader of the world's biggest democracy.

He has inherited the political tradition which began with

Mahatma Gandhi and which his own grandfather and mother represented so ably. He will be guilty of monumental folly if he disregards this body of tradition and fails to place India's larger interests above that of his party's fortunes. Mr Gandhi is no longer an innocent [words indistinct] in the corridors of power. He is in danger of doing violent harm to himself".

Indian Arms to Tamil Separatists Cited

BK031211 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1114 GMT
3 May 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 03 (LANKA PUWATH) — Indian authorities gave some Tamil separatist groups additional weapons last month which they have used against the security forces and civilians, today's *'Sunday Observer'* Stated Quoting reliable sources in a front page lead story headlined 'Covert Arms Aid to Tamil Terrorists'.

The report continues: "The weapons were handed over to the separatist groups including the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] on March 12 in Madras and Vedaranyam in the southern India coast, the sources said, adding that the government had sufficient evidence to back up the charge.

This covert military assistance provided by Indian intelligence with the knowledge of Tamil Nadu, included anti-aircraft 50 calibre guns, rocket-propelled grenades and rocket launchers, rifles and automatic weapons and large stocks of ammunition and explosives, the sources said.

This consignment of weapons was in addition to the weapons that were returned to the separatist groups by the Tamil Nadu authorities who had confiscated them from the LTTE and others immediately before the summit meeting of the seven South Asian leaders in Bangalore last November.

President J.R. Jayewardene who represented Sri Lanka at the summit was to meet Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during SAARC [South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation] gathering for bilateral talks on the Tamil separatist issue and the temporary confiscation was seen as a gesture to assuage Sri Lanka.

Shortly after the talks between President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Gandhi, the Tamil Nadu authorities, under orders from its Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran first returned the communication equipment confiscated from the LTTE and later handed back the sophisticated arsenals.

Well informed sources said that there was evidence to buttress the charge that Indian intelligence had a hand in this covert operation which was put into gear after the LTTE suffered military losses in February and March in the north and east.

Indian agents weighing the possibility of a major military offensive in the Jaffna Peninsula in an attempt to re-take key areas, put more weapons in the hands of the LTTE including anti-aircraft guns.

They were trying to neutralise the use of air power by the government forces which employed light planes and helicopters to attack separatist positions, gun emplacements and fortifications.

President Jayewardene has absolved Prime Minister Gandhi of these covert operations. Speaking to some foreign correspondents last week Mr Jayewardene said that "terrorists are still receiving arms from India".

"I do not put responsibility on Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for that", President Jayewardene reportedly said.

Drawing an analogy he said that President Reagan did not know everything the CIA did.

Reliable sources said that Indian intelligence and Tamil Nadu were responsible for the covert military help.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali last week described Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ramachandran's aid offer to the northern Tamils as "trying to do publicly what he has been doing privately".

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in New Delhi Bernard Tilakaratne who protested to the Indian External Affairs Ministry about the aid offer was reportedly told by Foreign Secretary Sankara Menon that the Tamil Nadu move was a response to the "economic blockade" of the Jaffna Peninsula.

Informed sources pointed out that the Tamil Nadu authorities had said they would send food, clothing and medical supplies.

"The so-called economic blockade refers to rationing of fuel. How food, clothing and medical supplies can meet a fuel rationing and how such a move can be so justified is the kind of Indian logic that is as inscrutable as the workings of providence", one analyst said referring to Mr Menon's remark.

"Not even the terrorists have complained of a food or clothing shortage. So what is India talking about", another source asked.

More Tamil Refugees Return From South India

BK031055 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0955 GMT
3 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 03 (LANKA PUWATH) — The number of Tamil refugees returning to Sri Lanka from India during the first four months this year (1987) was four fold that for entire 1986, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The official sources said as many as 5,426 persons had returned to the island from south India during January to end April 1987, whereas the total for last year (1986) was 1,278.

They said that this year, 839 refugees had returned in January, 2554 in February, 1245 in March and 768 in April.

Of the 1,278 who returned home in 1986, 543 arrived in December.

According to Indian press reports monitored by LANKA PUWATH, refugees interviewed by Indian newsmen in camps in south India have said they were bitterly disillusioned. They complained of poor sanitary living conditions, poor food, rape and being made victims of official corruption. The Indian press reports quoted refugees as saying they preferred to return to their homes in Sri Lanka as the conditions in South Indian refugee camps were intolerable.

Amnesty International 'Appreciation' Noted
BK031019 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0820 GMT
3 May 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 03 (LANKA PUWATH)— The Amnesty International has sent telegrams to Sri Lankan Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali and the government conveying its appreciation of how the government and the people of Sri Lanka faced with stoic calm the bomb blast engineered by the terrorists last April 21 (1987), the safety measures taken to safeguard all prisoners under the PTA [Prevention of Terrorism Act] and measures taken to prevent a backlash were also appreciated, states a government communique issued by the Media Centre in Colombo today.

Tamil Radio Cites Appeals for Support of Cause
BK040722 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam
in Tamil 1330 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] There was a massive May Day rally on the Jaffna Peninsula, the vital and central place of Tamil Eelam yesterday. In his May Day message, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Velupillai Prabhakaran, appealed to the countries of the world to recognize Tamil Eelam. Observers have expressed their opinion that yesterday's massive May Day rally of the Tamil speaking workers and peasants reflects the determination and the aspirations of all the people in the struggle for the rights of the people of Tamil Eelam.

Meanwhile, on May Day yesterday, the leader of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [opposition party in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu], M. Karunanidhi, urged the Indian Government to take immediate steps to save the Sri Lankan Tamils. He called for the Indian Government to sever its ties with the Sri Lankan Government and support the Sri Lankan Tamils' fight for their rights. He also appealed to all the people of Tamil Nadu, irrespective of their party affiliations, as well as all the people of India to extend their support to the people of Eelam.

Rafsanjani Discusses Foreign Relations*PM021100 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Apr 87 p 18*

[Untitled, unattributed report on press conference given by Iranian Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to foreign and local correspondents on 20 April, place not given]

[Text] The press conference started with a question put by the reporter from (Hürso) magazine, published in West Germany. He asked: In the first question I would like to refer to an incident on West German television which annoyed your countrymen. Considering that freedom of the press and speech in our country is different from that in Iran, do you not think that this issue should have been solved at a lower level? In your view, what will the relations be between my country and yours in the future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not know how the West German government interprets freedom. Is freedom to insult religious leaders all right in the eyes of a free people? If that is what you call freedom, it is not a good thing, because it destroys morals.

The film shown on German television was not a simple joke but rather a lie, and a lie is not good for any culture. As to whether the subject was treated harshly: Perhaps it was necessary to treat it more harshly than usual. We must consider how far the people of Iran and the Muslims of the world respect the imam and how much they can bear to have their emotions hurt.

With regard to our relations with Germany, we hope that they will not be weakened. That was a mistake that is now in the past, and we must not allow it to affect our relations in the future. We wish to have good relations with Germany because many of the goods that we need are available in Germany, and so there is no reason why we should not value our relations.

[Unidentified correspondent from ABC television] There are reports and rumors that for the first time Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] members have refused battle orders, their reason being that the war casualties are too high. Is this true?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not think that any such thing happened, because IRGC and Mobilization members are volunteering for the fronts. In fact, quite the opposite is the case, and IRGC men are in a hurry to get to the fronts. At this time the Majlis speaker asked the American journalist to disclose his sources, but the correspondent in question did not reply directly, saying: The issue could be a rumor, and I am not at liberty to disclose my sources.

The Majlis speaker then answered another of this reporter's questions on the foreign hostages in Lebanon and Iran's willingness to make an effort to win their freedom.

He said: We have said many times that, if we feel that the other side is not hostile to us, we are ready. Unfortunately your country's behaviour shows that it is hostile to us. Even in the days when the United States was trying to win the freedom of hostages [in Iran] it was engaging in mischief which showed its hostility.

We see signs that some U.S. officials are willing to use the hostages in the present situation for their own political ends.

Perhaps this is for U.S. propaganda or other purposes.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Die Welt*] What is your role in the war effort, especially in the Karbala' chain operations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and I promote the war effort, arranging programs and political matters relating to the war along with the rest of the Iranian nation. Anything else that I am able to do, I will do for the war cause.

[*Die Welt* correspondent] At the recent conference for Iraqi dissidents in Tehran there was an item of news which indicated that Iraqi dissidents want to establish a coalition regime and not an Islamic republic in Iraq. What do you think about this? What kind of government would Iran prefer for Iraq?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The suggestion that the Iraqi dissidents prefer something other than an Islamic republic is not true. Nor was this mentioned in the conference resolution. Iran's views on the nature of the Iraqi regime depend on the views of Iraq's Muslim nation. Anything they want is fine with us. We do not want to enforce our ideas on the Iraqi people. Following the downfall of the Ba'thist regime the Iraqi people will have to decide on the nature of their own regime.

Of course, since the people of that country are Muslim, we would like that nation's future regime to be Islamic, but that is up to the people of Iraq. They can act like the people of Iran who, after the success of the Islamic revolution, voted in a referendum by more than 99 percent to have an Islamic republic.

[Unidentified correspondent of the (Iranian) Voice of the Islamic Republic] Do you think that the United States and the Soviet Union will repeat their respective defeat and massacre in Vietnam and Afghanistan? Or will they avoid coming too close to the Persian Gulf? I would add that as a journalist I have reliable information that Reagan did not sleep last night because he found out that you were holding a press conference this morning.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As to the first part of your question, in which you asked if Vietnam or Afghanistan would be repeated in the Persian Gulf — it is very unlikely, because Vietnam did not bear fruit for the United States. So the United States was not encouraged to repeat the issue. It is also clear that the Soviets regret Afghanistan and that they too have gained nothing. In addition, Afghanistan and Vietnam are not like the Persian Gulf. More problems would face them here, and I doubt very much whether they would get involved.

With regard to your last question, it was like that American journalist's question. You have to give your sources, and without a source you cannot say anything. It is also unlikely that Mr Reagan would be so scared of a news conference that he would lose any sleep over it.

[Unidentified correspondent from *The Washington Post*] There have recently been some remarks in the Iranian press and among diplomats residing in Tehran that persons claiming to be representing Reagan have contacted you by telephone. They were allegedly trying to persuade you to contact Reagan to give some

hope that U.S.-Iran relations might improve.

Have you received such a message? If so, what was your reply? How can Iran-U.S. relations improve in the future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to the first question: That happened not recently but a few weeks after the whole issue, and I announced it myself. Someone with a definite telephone number and address called the office at the Majlis and gave a number for the White House. That person asked that I talk to Reagan on that number. He said that, if Reagan was not there, there would be someone else to answer the phone. We looked into the situation and we found out that it was correct. We have that telephone number right now, and we also have the name of the person in question, but we do not want to give out his name at present.

With regard to the United States, we do not believe that our relations with that country have to be cut forever. After they took the Shah there, the students showed some reaction and the United States cut off its ties with us. When they started, it provided a good opportunity for us. U.S. policy toward Iran before and after the revolution was and is mischievous. The "Satan" label that we have given the United States is no exaggeration. Your policies are hurting us now.

You see that they have confiscated our goods there now for no reason at all. We have paid for them, so why do you not give them to us? The plots, the propaganda, and the support they give to our enemies are other examples. Even in those days when we had relations with you, your embassy was the center of plots against us. If we can be sure that the United States plans no mischief, we are willing to establish relations with the United States. But I think it will be very hard. In this short time they have done some mischievous things — one example being the way that, despite our wishes and our hatred, they involved Israel in this whole issue.

Another thing is that the small sum that was exchanged for goods entailed their charging us several times the price. There are other things which have been mentioned and some things that have not been mentioned. In any case, establishing ties with the United States depends on whether they give up their tricks.

Another problem is Israel. If the United States wants to give limitless support to Israel, it will be hard for it to have relations with Iran.

[Unidentified correspondent of *The Washington Post*] When did this telephone conversation that you mentioned take place? Was it just once or several times? Does the Iranian Government feel that the contacts it has had with the United States are valuable? Has Iran been able to get any weapons through these contacts? Are you happy that you have played games with Reagan and have embarrassed him inside the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The date of the telephone call was at the time I announced it — it was the same time as the Iraqi dissidents were holding their conference in Tehran. There has been no telephone call since. With regard to whether or not we are happy about this amount of contact with the Americans, we did not gain that much to be happy, and it was only an experiment.

After some time the Americans were insisting through middlemen that their policies toward the Islamic revolution had changed. But in practice we saw that this policy had not changed. What we gained in this affair was not so much. As I said — and you have the same thing in your documents — there were about 2,000 TOW missiles, which are now manufactured in Iran. Therefore, it cannot be considered too valuable for us. There was also a small amount of spare parts for Hawk missiles. We have spare part manufacturing facilities for weapons inside the country. Of course there is need for some parts, but the issue was not that important for us even though the experiment was valuable.

You benefited more from this because we helped release some of the hostages. If the Americans had remained faithful to their promise, there were some friends of the Lebanese in jail in countries under your influence, and the Americans were supposed to use that influence to win their release. And perhaps if they had remained faithful to their word, some more of the hostages would have been freed.

Why should we be happy about the problems caused for White House leaders and Mr Reagan? We are not really happy with this situation. This is not what we were after. It is something that your own press as well as Mr Reagan's rivals created, so perhaps they are happy.

[Unidentified correspondent from *The Los Angeles Times*] You said that the United States engaged in some tricks during the hostage issue. Despite this you said that Iran was still willing to help in the situation. My question is: At present, how is Iran willing to help in the matter?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I have said many times that we have put up one sign for the United States to show its goodwill, and that is to release our assets frozen illegally in the United States. This act would be considered a goodwill gesture, and we in turn would intervene with the people of Lebanon to release the hostages. Of course, that is, if the people of Lebanon agreed to our intervention. We are not sure, because the last time the United States did not carry out its promise.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Enquiry*] With regard to meetings between some leaders of Persian Gulf countries and factions opposed to the Iraqi regime and the possibility of political change in the Iraqi regime, could Iran gain its rights through diplomatic channels? What are the chances of this happening?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course there is no time to reach that stage. Usually when we stage an attack and deal a blow, we wait for a little while, so perhaps Iraq's supporters could sit up and take notice so that we could gain our rights through their pressure. Even now we have not lost hope that something like this could happen. But experience shows that, if there is no force and if there is no fear of the war continuing, they — the Iraqis — will not surrender. This is what has been shown in other areas.

When the flames of war die down, no one is willing to grant the other's rights through negotiations. You see this in Israel since 1968, when the war stopped. So far Israel has not stepped back one foot from land captured, and has even advanced. As for us, every time we attack, we wait for a while, thinking that it could

have political effects.

[Unidentified AFP correspondent] Last year you often said: This year we will deliver the final blow against the Iraqis. What will you call this year?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The interpretation of the "final blow" is what the mass media have drawn from the people's slogans. We said a "decisive" blow. In one of the Friday prayers sermons I myself said that we would deliver a decisive blow. We accomplished that. As you saw in the Karbala' 5 operations there was a decisive operation and a definite blow, as a result of which the Iraqi war machine sustained serious damage. This opened the way for further victories. We have said this year is the year when we benefit from the blows delivered last year against the Iraqi war machine.

[Unidentified correspondent of RESALAT] With regard to the movement of oil tankers carrying Soviet and U.S. flags through the Persian Gulf, what will be Iran's reaction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The movement of oil tankers is not an issue for us. These ships can move through the Persian Gulf. Even warships move through this area. What is important at present is if the Persian Gulf countries want to act in this manner to allow Iraq to attack our ships and then, with the trick used by the United States and the Soviet Union, prevent us from retaliation. Then, of course, our hands will not be tied.

Until now we have not accepted responsibility for hitting any ship, and in no case can it be proved that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sunk a ship. But there have been acts of retaliation in the Persian Gulf. I do not think that, just because some countries' oil is moved on an American or Soviet ship, it can be immune. Retaliation occurs in any case, and we are not afraid that another ship may be present there. We have said as much before.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Al-'Alam*] It seems that the superpowers and some regional countries are trying to force you into creating a crisis in the Persian Gulf. The presence of a U.S. fleet and Italian frigates, Kuwait's invitation to the United States and the Soviets, and the Saudi proposal to buy warships all indicate that there will be a military confrontation in the region. What is your view on this development? Also, what is your view on the meeting in Algiers among the various Palestinian factions? How do you feel about an international conference on peace in the Middle East? How do you view the existing problems among the Palestinian factions?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to the fact that some regional countries and superpowers want to create a crisis in the Persian Gulf, I must say that some of it is noise-making, done to create fear. They themselves know that they will gain nothing from this region. But it is possible that, in order to save Saddam, they would create something. We are completely ready to face such a situation.

What do they gain from this crisis? I feel that both the Persian Gulf countries' security and the world's financial security would be destroyed. If there is such a crisis, no oil will leave the Persian Gulf.

With regard to Palestine, we would like all the Palestinian factions to unite to struggle as one for the liberation of Palestine. If anyone tries to create this unity, we will also help. But something that can be seen is that they are exaggerating the danger of Islam and an Islamic republic for the regional Arab countries. Those involved in this are inviting them to compromise with Israel, to be ready to confront the dangers of Islam. Of course, this is a trick played on these countries. There is no danger here. Quite the opposite: We will support Islamic countries. We will be the front-runners for regional security after this war is over. Security is in our interest, and we hope that this trick will not work for Arab countries or Palestine.

[Unidentified correspondent from Japan's NHK television] In one of your interviews you said that a report is being prepared about McFarlane's trip to Tehran. Is this ready? When will the tapes of McFarlane's negotiations be published? Also, there are some maps which he showed you which indicate that the Soviets want to attack Iran. When will these be published?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The report on McFarlane's trip is being prepared. It will be published at the appropriate time. Perhaps during this time the Americans will say more and then, with our documents, the truth will become clearer. With regard to the map, I must say that McFarlane did not give us any maps. This map reached us through other U.S. contacts and messages.

The Americans claim that the map shows the places where the Soviets would enter and what aims they would follow. This map is available. Our friends suggest that we should put the collection of documents on view at an international trade fair in the future and, if we see this to be in our interest, we shall do so.

[Unidentified IRNA correspondent] It has been claimed that the Americans have prepared tapes and films of their negotiations with the Iranians. What do you think is the purpose of this claim? How true is it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I doubt that it could have been done in Iran. It is possible that they prepared films and tapes in some other places. In any case, if they have done this, it is to our advantage. What we have said so far has been the truth and, whenever the truth comes out, it will prove that our words were true. So we will never be worried about such a claim.

[Unidentified correspondent from Japan's *Asahi Shimbun*] When the Karbala' 5 operations were under way, you said that this was the beginning of a major operation. Why were these operations stopped all of a sudden? Why did other Karbala' operations continue after that? In this connection, there are rumors that several countries put pressure on Iran to call an end to the operations. There is also a rumor that countries such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey are trying to arrange a cease-fire after the month of Ramadan. What do you think could be the result of these movements?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In general, all our operations do not have a military nature. When we carry out an operation, we take into consideration political and other circumstances. Keeping in mind those conditions, we carry on what we are doing. We do not want people to die, and we get upset when people, even Iraqis, get killed

in the war, because if they survive and become a part of Iraq's future it is better for us. But that factor will not make us stop the war. When all the conditions are right for a major strike, we will carry it out.

With regard to efforts for a cease-fire, these things are told to us and our answer is clear. We have a clear demand. We say: First of all you have to accept that Saddam and the Ba'th party are the aggressors and that they started the war. Based on this, there have to be courts of law to put the aggressor on trial. Under those conditions, we are willing to stop the war. If it is being said that after Ramadan there will be a cease-fire, I must say that so far no one has given a positive answer to our demand. Of course they hold talks, but as far as we are concerned these talks are not serious.

[Unidentified correspondent from Turkey's *Gunes*] At present Turkish officials are meeting with their Iraqi counterparts to arrange for the construction of the third oil pipeline. So far Iranian officials have been slow to start talks with Turkish officials on the construction of an oil pipeline. Do you not think that this delay in negotiations has gone far enough? Meanwhile, a trade and economy delegation from Iran left for Ankara today. Will continued contacts between officials of both sides result in more commercial exchange?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We want to increase our trade ties with the Turkish Government and also strengthen our political ties.

With regard to the oil pipeline, it needs a lot of financial investment, and I think that the issue that has yet to be solved between us and Turkey is the investment issue. We are not in a position to invest heavily in the construction of a pipeline right now. Of course I am not involved in the details of the matter, but usually it is this type of issue that causes delays.

[*Gunes*] It seems that Kurdish groups under Talbani [name as published] and Barzani, who are busy fighting against the Iraqi regime in northern Iraq, have been united with the help of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Do you not think that this unity will lead to an independent Kurdistan in Iraq in the future? Do you agree with the creation of independent Kurdistans in other countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have announced repeatedly that we are in favor of Iraq's territorial integrity. We think that the groups fighting inside Iraq against Saddam will not show an inclination toward separatism if a just and popular regime comes to power in Iraq. These words are uttered during days of cruelty and injustice.

We have the same beliefs for other countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Syria. The countries' territorial integrity has to remain intact, but the governments must treat their people justly so that they do not feel like strangers. Then they would not seek separatism or autonomy.

[Unidentified correspondent from the *Tehran Times*] How do you think that the fall of Saddam can be brought about? Through political means? Do you think it essential to continue the war, or do you think that political means would be enough to achieve this

goal?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We think that those who invite us to end the war hold the key to ending the war through political means. If countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, the United States, the Soviet Union, France and others, which are giving a lot of help to Iraq, stopped their aid, Iraq would surrender after a few months and the war would end. These countries not only do not help us, they block other aid to us as well. There are political solutions, but those who are helping Iraq do not seem to want the war to end.

You can see now that Iraqi oil pipelines go through Saudi Arabia and Turkey. If they did not want the war to continue, they could halt the pipeline operations. Most of Iraq's imports are going through ports in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, or Turkey. If they want the war to end, they can help.

If France and the Soviet Union do not give weapons to Iraq, Iraq cannot continue the war. Even the Persian Gulf security that they talk about is attainable. If they secured Iraq's promise not to cause problems in the Persian Gulf, that waterway would be secure. So you see that the decisions are made outside Iraq. If this is what is meant by political pressure to end the war, then it is possible. If it is applied, this war will end.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Keyhan International*] Recently Rajiv Gandhi has adopted a harsh policy toward Muslims. What is your analysis of Mr Gandhi's statements?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think that they have made a mistake, because in any event the Muslims in India are a huge force and they have a large share in India's independence. If the religious sensibilities of Indian Muslims are tampered with, it will cause immense problems for India.

India is a free country; in that atmosphere it would be very difficult to crush the Muslims and would be a mistake. His recent statements are indeed not in the country's interest. We do not expect this situation to continue.

[Unidentified correspondent of the BBC] The Joint Staff Communiques of the past few weeks have seen considerable changes. Especially 2 weeks ago, and with regard to the air force, there was talk of a couple of planes and perhaps four sorties a day, whereas now there are 16 sorties and dozens of aircraft involved. Would you please give details on this subject? Have you added a new wing to your fighter force?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have not added any new planes to our air force, but we have repaired our existing aircraft. At present repairs are going very well. We arranged an exhibition of our essential spare parts. Both the private and the public sector have helped a lot in making spares, and we have also managed to get some things from abroad. Our air force is in relatively good shape now.

[Unidentified correspondent from Japan's *Sungri*] The deals that Iran has had with the United States for arms and the contacts that have been made with the Americans have harmed your political standing with religious leaders and the general Iranian

public. How do you feel about this)

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This issue has been regarded as a victory inside Iran, and everything is clear to the people. I do not think that the people are so bothered by the issue that it would damage anyone's credibility.

[Unidentified correspondent from AFP] with regard to the last four speeches made by the imam, analysts believe that there are differences and rows among the Iranian leadership. What is your view on the subject?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] These are rumors and lies spread to cause dissension. There is complete coordination in Iran's decision-making centers. Anything the imam says, we will accept without a word. If there is a case where we do not agree, we ask the imam. There are no problems or differences of opinion at the moment among the country's leadership that could cause dissension.

[Unidentified correspondent of Al-Mowqef Al-'Arabi magazine, published in Cyprus] There have recently been armed clashes in the Strait of Hormuz between Iranian naval forces and the U.S. Navy. Would you please give some details about this? Was the firing of one missile by the Iranians serious, or was it just a warning? Would you please also say if this action caused any damage?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There have been no clashes between us and American forces. There was one U.S. reconnaissance plane which violated our maritime borders a few days ago, and our fighters chased it and tried to make it land in Bandar 'Abbas, but it escaped. Things happen with the U.S. forces that are in the area. Sometimes our patrol aircraft get too close to them and they issue a warning, or else we warn them. We tell them not to come close to our waters, or else they say that we should not go too close to them. It has been like this for a long time, for years. Later, officials exchange communications on the issue.

What the Americans or others say — that we fired a missile — is not true. We now have all kinds of missiles in the Persian Gulf and in other places. We have land-to-sea missiles, we have ship-to-ship missiles, air-to-ship missiles, and other types. These are either locally made, or manufactured by East or West. Many of these have been fired already, either in tests or in operations. I do not know what missile they were talking about when they commented about damage.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Abrar*] You announced in this week's Tehran Friday prayers that there is a hint of a plot brewing in aggressive circles against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Would you please give more details about this? The Islamic Republic of Iran sees its policy toward threat as one of retaliation. Is it not time for this policy to be brought into force with regard to some reactionary regimes in the region? Iraq has recently deployed more chemical weapons in its recent operations on the war fronts and in inhabited areas. Is Iran not thinking about retaliating in kind by deploying chemical weapons?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] With regard to your first question, the plot was what I talked about — the crisis that is being created in the Persian Gulf to drag the superpowers into it.

As far as retaliation is concerned — and if we are thinking about going one step farther against bothersome countries south of the Persian Gulf — at present we do not see the need for stronger action. If one day we see the need, there is a possibility. This means that we do not necessarily believe in keeping things at this level. Of course, we prefer not to engage our neighbors.

In connection with your other question on chemical weapons, we have announced that we are ready. At present we have taken some steps through the United Nations — if they do not take effective measures and if Iraq continues this mischief, it seems that we will be forced to deploy them.

[Unidentified correspondent from *Keyhan al-'Arabi*] The world's mass media are claiming that relations have cooled between Iran and Syria. They say that Iran has cut off its oil supplies to Syria. What is your view on the subject?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is not the case. The Syrian oil minister is here right now. Normally we try to have an agreement with the Syrians once a year, and last year's agreement has just expired. In the past we gave Syria 1 million tons of free oil per year for that country's expenses in facing Israel. During the first few years the agreement was for Syria to buy several million tons' more of cheap oil — \$1 or \$2 cheaper. Recently Syria has stopped buying cheap oil from us and is only taking the free oil. This year the same thing will probably happen again. There has, in fact, been no delay.

The mission of the mass media is to direct public opinion to the truth. I stress that you always try to portray the truth to the people. If the people get the correct news, they make the right decisions and public opinion moves in the right direction. We expect nothing more from you.

Says Fear of U.S. 'Ridiculous'

NC011105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] While the Saheb az-Zaman Corps was being dispatched to the fronts of the imposed war, Hojjat ol-Islam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis, met with a division of combat forces from Khomeyn district yesterday. These forces are going on foot to the fronts under the name of the Badr Vanguard. The speaker said: The great presence of youths at the fronts during the month of Ramadan is a lesson to those who think that threats and intimidation will divert us from pursuing the war and striving to attain our rights.

He added: In a society in which old and young are prepared to battle with the enemies of the Islamic revolution, fear of U.S. or Soviet warships is ridiculous and meaningless. Addressing the combatants en route to the fronts from Khomeyn, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Your remarkable action, going on foot to the fronts from Khomeyn, which is very far, during the month of Ramadan, is extremely appropriate. The great imam has declared Ramadan the month of holy war in response to the nonsense of the enemies of Islam. He added: We expected this from the proud city of Khomeyn, the city of the great leader of the revolution which has shaken the world of infidels and tyrants, the

world of oppression. This revolution has strengthened and delighted the hearts of hundreds of millions of deprived Muslims of the world. This is to the credit of your city, and it should be a source of inspiration and boost morale. It has already done so. The people of Iran and the world rightfully expect that the youths of Khomeyn will excel in the war, as they have done. If this were not so, the city would not have attained the respect it is due.

The imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council added: This march and the great presence of youths on the fronts in the auspicious month of Ramadan is a lesson to those who think that with threats, intimidation, and blackmail they can prevent us from continuing the war to attain our rights and proclaim the lofty tenets of Islam through the defeat of the Iraqi Ba'ith party, a war begun against the Islamic revolution movement. They will see through your action that they are mistaken. When our enemies see that hundreds of noble persons are walking toward the fronts from a little city like Khomeyn, they will realize the workings of such a society. This is a society that not only considers ridiculous a threat from Soviet vessels and U.S. battleships in the Persian Gulf, but reacts by stepping up our own activities.

Stressing the need for the dispatch to the fronts of combatant forces during auspicious Ramadan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The importance of your act is that you have become the vanguards of the second phase of the Saheb az-Zaman forces on these auspicious fronts. We expect that in the wake of your act a tumultuous wave of forces will be dispatched from all districts, cities, and provinces, filling the fronts and taking the war to such a point that the enemies of Islam, Saddam's friends, and supporters of the Aflaqi Ba'ith party will fear for their very existence. With the defeat of the Iraqi ruling regime and the restitution of the Iraqi nation's right to forge its own destiny, desired peace will be established in the region.

Syrian Oil Minister Confers With Khamene'i

LD011252 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — The Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Durubi conferred with Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here Friday.

Conveying President Hafiz al-Asad's warm greetings to President Khamene'i, the Syrian oil minister said that Syria remains aligned with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that whatever the efforts of the common enemies of Iran and Syria, the two countries will continue to remain aligned.

Durubi extolled Iran's backing of Syria against the Zionist regime and said that Syria is sure that if the imposed war had not started against the Islamic revolution and Iranian nation, the Islamic Republic would have struggled against the Zionists in the same front with Syria.

He emphasized that Syria hopes that the war would end with the victory of the Iranian nation and the downfall of Saddam.

President Khamene'i in response, expressing hope on the outcome of talks between officials of the two countries said that Iran

considers Syria and the Syrian people to be in the same strong-hold with Iran against the Zionists and that it is aware of the pressures imposed upon Syria by world arrogance and reactionary regimes in the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said that the U.S. and the west and their dependent reactionary regimes in the region aim at hindering the progressive countries of the region and that therefore, it is the duty of these countries to form a united and develop a united and strong entity for upholding the spirit of resistance among their masses.

Iranian oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iranian ambassador to Syria and Syrian charge d'affaires to Tehran were also present in the meeting.

Durubi Departs for Home

LD011703 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Durubi left here for Damascus Friday after signing of two oil contracts, one for receipt of one million tons of free oil and the other for purchase of two million tons of oil from Iran.

Prior to his departure from Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, Durubi thanked Iranian officials for their warm hospitality and cooperation.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh saw off his Syrian counterpart at the airport where he told reporters that one of the Tehran-Damascus contracts was on [words indistinct] prices.

Aqazadeh reiterated that there is no restriction on Iranian oil sale to Syria and that Iran is ready to provide Syria with as much as oil as it needs.

The Majlis (parliament) has approved a bill authorizing the government to gift one million tons of oil to Syria annually for its anti-Zionist regime struggles.

During his 12-day visit here, the Syrian oil minister underwent an appendicitis operation at a hospital in Tehran.

Aqazadeh Explains Agreement

LD021340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] The Syrian oil minister who was visiting our country left Tehran yesterday afternoon for Damascus. He was seen off by Oil Minister Aqazadeh. Mr Aqazadeh took part in an interview with our correspondent about this visit, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording][unidentified reporter] Mr Aqazadeh, please let us know what were the results achieved by the discussions which the Syrian oil minister had in Tehran and what agreements were reached.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Each year the oil minister of the Syrian Arab Republic visits our country to renew the agreement which the two countries have. We signed two agreements with the Syrian oil minister. On the basis of the first one, in view of their struggle against Zionism, each year we give them 1 million tonnes of oil free of charge. This is approved by the Majlis through legal channels. The second agreement is about the oil which Syria purchases from us. After our discussions we signed an agreement for the export of 2 million tonnes of crude to Syria, plus or minus 25 percent, and we get paid for it. This amount of oil is the same as last year. This year, too, we will meet Syria's requirements, and for this reason we signed an agreement with Syria for the sale of oil.

[Reporter] The 25 percent which you referred to, does it mean that they will pay 25 percent less than the current price, or does it refer to quantity?

[Aqazadeh] No, it is in connection with official prices, and the sale will take place in cash form. The 25 percent to which I referred means that they can receive plus or minus 25 percent. Of course, we have imposed no limit on the sale of oil to Syria or giving oil to Syria. We will give them as much as they need, bearing in mind that this year the sale of our oil took place on a cash basis and according to the official OPEC prices.

[Reporter] Is the agreement only about oil or does it include other items and the purchase of other items?

[Aqazadeh] No, the sale of oil is on a cash basis, and a commercial agreement had nothing to do with the oil ministry. That could be done independently on the basis of another agreement. The sale of oil is on a cash basis and we receive the price of oil in cash.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Aqazadeh Notes Success of National Gas Plan

*LD021157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 2 May 87*

[Excerpt] Oil Minister Aqazadeh announced at a press, radio, and television conference today, that the gas transmission program is underway in 80 cities in the country and gas transmission will begin in another 24 cities this year. In connection with the plans to be carried out by the National Gas Company this year and next year, the oil minister said:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] In the name of god, the compassionate, the merciful.

Before the revolution, from 1966 onward, the gas transmission plan began in our country. Toward the end of 1978 we had a total of 50,000 service lines throughout the country in the cities of Shiraz, Esfahan, Paveh, Ahvaz, and the Alborz industrial township, serving 27,000 consumers. After the revolution, and despite all the problems besetting our economy thanks to the war, during the 8 years from 1979 to March 1987, a total of 492,000 service lines were set up — the equivalent of 10 times of what was achieved before the revolution in 12 years.

In accordance with the 1987-1988 plans, the National Gas

Company has envisioned an extensive plan and toward the end of the year we shall — god willing — connect 260,000 service lines [words indistinct] and in the year beginning 20 March 1988 23 shall have a total of 300,000 service lines, thereby bringing the number of service lines for 1987-88 up to 560,000 lines throughout the country. This will be more than was achieved during the past 20 years. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ardabili Lambasts USSR Support for Iraq

*LD011445 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 May 87*

[Text] On the first Friday in the blessed month of Ramadan the politico-religious Friday prayers rites were held in most parts of the country today. In Tehran, too, the Hezbollah Islamic nation, attending Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, observed this Muhammadan rite under the imamate of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the State Supreme Court, paid tribute in his sermons, in connection with the anniversary of the martyrdom of Professor Morteza Motahhari, to the martyr's lofty position and personality and congratulated all the country's workers on Workers Day.

The president of the State Supreme Court then referred to the problem of the imposed war and, expounding the history of the war, noted the chemical bombing of hamlets in northern Iraq by the Saddam regime and said: This general of Al-Qadisiyah [battle at the dawn of Islam] has fallen on such times that he is now dropping his chemical bombs on the heads of the people in northern Iraq; and tomorrow he may do the same to the inhabitants of Baghdad. I urge the UN delegation, which has visited Iran and is currently in Iraq, to visit northern Iraq, too, in order to find out what this Saddam is doing to his own nation! We do not want that delegation to testify in our favor. Let it testify in the interest of Iraqi Kurds!

Addressing the Kuwaiti Government, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili then said: You who are embroiling the super-powers in the Persian Gulf, imagining that you would be (terming) yourselves against us, should know that our nation has passed its test in the bombing of population centers and does not fear such things. The Kuwaiti Government asserts that the presence of the super-powers in the Persian Gulf proves Kuwait's independence. If subservience is proof of independence then you should know that you have been independent for years.

Referring to an Arab League delegation's visit to the Soviet Union and stressing remarks made by Soviet officials calling on Iran to negotiate with Saddam and the Ba'th party and to end the war, the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council said, addressing the Soviet Government: You who regard yourselves as supporters of the oppressed, who know what is being done to revolutionaries in Kuwait, Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon and that there is little distance now between the revolutionaries and an armed uprising — why do you say such things? You assert you are peace-loving. The country that is the biggest supplier of arms to Iraq regards itself as an advocate of peace! If that is peace then why did you not make peace with Hitler? Even now, years after

the end of the world war, you are trying a German pilot on charges of being a Nazi.

The chairman of the State Supreme Court added: Who is the culprit in the war? The culprits are those who most generously put missiles, bombs, and aircraft in the hands of a war criminal to pour on the victims who seek nothing except to defend their territory. The Soviet Union should know that this is a trap that has been laid for it. With the remarks it has made to a few representatives of reactionary Arab countries it has lost its prestige among the world's revolutionary people. You have lost in Egypt and in Afghanistan. Are you trying to repeat the experience?

In conclusion Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili called on the people to participate in the dispatch of forces to the fronts and also, by fully participating in the march on Jerusalem Day, once again to demonstrate the power of the Islamic revolution.

West's Efforts To 'Hide' Iraqi 'Weakness' Viewed

NC020938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 2 May 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Text] The combatants of Islam began the Karbala'-10 operations at a time when the Ba'thist party's war machinery had not yet overcome the blows inflicted on it by the Karbala'-8 and -9, Fath-S, and Nasr-I series of operations. While the most powerful forces of the Ba'thist military were sent to the operational theater east of Basra to block the road for our combatant heroes, and when the entire attention of the Baghdad regime had been turned to Basra and it was studying the war or ways to preserve this city, the brave men of the forces of Islam carried out a lightning operation on a new front and inflicted strong blows on the enemy in a sort period of time. With this operation, the forces of Islam once again demonstrated their ability to open various fronts along the lines of contact.

However, a noteworthy point of these operations, which should be assessed more carefully, is that, as was stated by the Supreme Defense Council's spokesman, the commencement of the Karbala'-10 operations was kept silent for a few days because this was in Iran's interests. Meanwhile, the Americans, who claim that they take pictures of our fronts several times a day with their satellites, also stayed silent and made no statement on the extensive movement of our forces. When we finally announced that the operation had taken place, they only reported that no important movement had taken place on the fronts and that no outstanding developments had taken place in the operational theaters. This behavior clearly manifests the propaganda role of the superpowers, and especially of the United States, in veiling the realities of the war. If they had reported on the victorious Karbala'-10 operation after four successful operations early this [Iranian] year and all within a period of less than 40 days, then they could not justify the continuation of their support for a defeated regime. It is because of this that they are trying to hide this weakness of the Ba'thist party with their propaganda ploys.

This very issue was discussed by Dr Larijani, the deputy foreign minister [for economic and international affairs], who said:

[Begin recording] In order to clarify the international dimensions of this issue, we should look at the horrific avalanche of international propaganda against us. Since the eve of the revolution's victory, what has been said against the Islamic revolution has been unprecedented in the history of Western propaganda. They resorted to these measures with the hope that, when Iran was attacked, the world would not ask why an oppressed nation that had carried out a revolution should be attacked. They did this so that the world would think that a nation which they say is dangerous and evil had been attacked. In this way they could mitigate the situation. It was on such grounds and with such motives that the attack against us first started.

You should now consider the meaning of some of the words uttered by the superpowers. They say that this war is meaningless. Actually, this war is full of meaning because when it started, it wanted to destroy a revolution. They say that this war is fruitless. Well, if by fruitful they mean that the motives for which the war started — that is, to destroy the Islamic revolution — should have been achieved, then the desirable result certainly was not achieved. Actually, it is good that the war has been fruitless. We should thank God a thousand times that the war did not bear the fruits that these gentlemen wanted. True, this war will bear no fruits for the superpowers. If they thought that they would defeat the revolution, they were mistaken. However, this war has been very fruitful for the revolution and for the revolution's stature. It demonstrated that our people are ready to resist and can resist. It showed that we are not simpletons when it comes to war and to defending Islam and our revolution. We know what is happening. We can defeat the enemy who is being strengthened from both left and right. We can punish it and, God willing, annihilate it soon. [end recording]

Commentary Scores Kuwait's Support for Iraq

NC031022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0445 GMT 3 May 87

[Commentary from the "Developments on the Front" feature]

[Text] The world's hegemonistic powers, with Kuwait acting as vanguard, have recently been trying to upset the security in the strategic Persian Gulf waters. We have spoken in detail in previous programs on what the imperialists' objectives behind this deceit are and on why it is at this juncture that the enemies' efforts have intensified. However, what has proven to be significant and calls for an independent analysis is the irresponsible behavior of the Kuwaiti Government.

There are basically two very clear realities behind the Kuwaiti amirs' appeal to the international hegemonistic powers for assistance. One is that this mischief is not a new phenomenon and that it is actually a link in the chain of plots against the Islamic revolution by this sheykdom which have come to light since the beginning of the imposed war. The second is that the major objective behind these instigations is to further and more overtly support the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thists. More precisely, there are two sides to the Kuwaiti Government's acts. The first is its hostile

stand toward the Islamic Republic; the second is its support for Saddam's regime. On the basis of these facts, we too will analyze the Kuwaiti Government's actions in two sections. First, we will briefly glance at Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations; then we will discuss the Kuwaiti Government's hostile stand against the Iranian people.

Obviously, the fact that the Iraqi regime does not have usable coasts on the Persian Gulf will easily reveal the nature of the long-lasting conflicts between Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq's only port of Basra, which is on the Shatt al-'Arab bed, is not very efficient for the following two reasons: The shallow depth of the river's waters allow it to be used only by vessels with limited tonnage; and the existing coasts, from the mouth of the Al-Faw to the Umm al-Qasr base, end up in marshland and are unsuitable for the construction of jetties, especially for large vessels.

Therefore, it is because of such deprivations that the Ba'thist regime has, since its establishment, been looking greedily at Kuwaiti coasts. Meanwhile, if the Kuwaiti Government has forgotten the past and does not remember Baghdad's overt aggressions against Kuwaiti territory, we would like to list a few examples to refresh some memories.

After the coup in Iraq, 'Abd al-Karim al-Qasim clarified that he does not recognize a territory called Kuwait and that Kuwait is basically an Iraq province. In March 1973, Iraqi forces overtly aggressed against Kuwaiti territory and even occupied the (Al-Sayyah) border post. In March 1974, Murtada Sa'id 'Abd al-Baqi, the Iraqi foreign minister at that time, in an interview with Beirut's *Al-Sayyad* magazine, described the Ba'thist regime's expansionist intentions against Kuwait and said: Iraq is prepared to solve its differences with Kuwait on the condition that Kuwait give the islands of Al-Warbah and Bubiyan to us. He added: Without these two islands, we cannot be a regional power in the Persian Gulf. In March 1975, Saddam pointed to the military potential of the Ba'thist Armed Forces and once again threatened the Kuwaiti Government by saying: Our army can fight on several fronts simultaneously. Therefore, we will not stop our pressures on Kuwait.

Dear friends, you have just heard a few examples of the overt efforts by the Baghdad regime to create tensions with the Kuwaiti Government. Now, by taking these realities into consideration, the question is: Why has the Kuwaiti Government employed its resources to support its long-lasting enemy, the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thists? Do the Kuwaiti officials actually lack the necessary wisdom to tell friend from foe, or has their amnesia reached such a degree that they have forgotten the Saddamists' unceasing treacheries?

On 3 December 1974, the chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee appealed to various governments and clearly announced that Iraqi forces had aggressed against Kuwaiti territory, occupying 2 sq kms of its territory, and that they intended to silently occupy Al-Warbah and Bubiyan Islands. It was in continuation of this expansionist policy of Baghdad against Kuwait that 2 years later, in December 1977, the acting Kuwaiti prime minister, in his call for joint efforts by international organizations for the immediate withdrawal of the Saddamist forces, announced that 12 km of his country's territory had been occupied by the Ba'thist regime.

What you heard were merely a few examples of the Ba'thist regime's expansionist stand vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti Government. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Baghdad's efforts to create crises are not summed up within the limits of territorial claims and, ultimately, of repeated aggressions, and that the Saddam rule has been, for a long time now, involved both in the dispatch of assassination squads and in efforts to overthrow the Kuwaiti Government. The most recent example of these efforts was the assassination attempt against the Kuwaiti Amir, the perpetrator of which, according to an official KUNA statement, was a Ba'thist regime element.

History clarifies that relations between Baghdad and Kuwait are filled with conflicts created by the Ba'thist regime in a bid to achieve its expansionist ideals. However, the clear answers to the questions on why now, despite all these threats, we see Kuwait defending the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thists and on what the true reason for ignoring these realities by the Kuwaiti shaykhs is, can be found in the bullying nature of the Saddamists and their overt blackmail, recent manifestations of which are the repeated explosions in Kuwait's industrial centers.

At any rate, in conclusion we should point to the Islamic Republic's principled stand on the existing developments. This stand advocates that, despite efforts by various governments, and especially by the Kuwaiti Government, the Persian Gulf's security and calm is indivisible. Therefore, all those countries that have one interest or another in the Persian Gulf should bear in mind that any act, even though small, that can create tension in this waterway will threaten and weaken their own interests.

In relations to this, we invite our dear listeners to hear how Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Besharati analyzes this issue:

[Begin recording] When we announced that we intend to defend our own territorial integrity; when we announced that the Persian Gulf's security is indivisible, that is, for either all or none; when we announced that if we are unable to deliver our oil through the Hormuz Strait we also cannot allow others to deliver then oil, some countries may not have taken our threat seriously. The deployment of our missiles on the Persian Gulf mouth was a novelty for some, although we had announced from before that we will close the Hormuz strait to vessels carrying arms for Iraq. And we did this. The closing of the Hormuz Strait is different from closing the door of a room. We have closed the Hormuz Strait now too, that is, to vessels that carry arms for Iraq. In other words, we cannot allow the Hormuz Strait to be used by vessels that carry weapons that kill our people. No one with common sense can accept this. The world too has realized this and even the Americans have accepted the fact that it is our natural right to block the flow of weapons to our full-fledged enemy. Today, when we are hosting a delegation from neighboring Oman, we see that the Omanis too have realized this. The southern part of the Hormuz Strait belongs to the Omanis. We and the Omanis have an understanding on this. We have told all the Arab states in the Persian Gulf that we have nothing to do with them, that we have nothing to do with vessels carrying goods for them, and that we only intercept vessels that carry military goods for Iraq. The deployment of missiles on the mouth of the Persian Gulf is not a threat because someone who has power does not threaten. If we feel that countries want to continue supporting the vessels

which carry arms for Iraq, we are determined to prevent this illogical act and to prevent arms from reaching Iraq. This is a serious issue. Those who do not believe can try us. Of course, they will have to pay for not believing us, and it will cost them dearly. [end recording]

Communiques, Reports Detail Recent Fighting

Communique No 2823

LD011557 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Some Iraqi boats trying to leave the Khour Abdullah [spelling as received] waterway, northwestern Persian Gulf, early Friday were shelled and forced to return to their hideouts by Iranian Navy gunboats. The navy gunboats also intercepted and inspected 14 cargo ships and oil tankers in the strait of Hormuz Thursday but found no suspicious cargo on board them.

Announcing the above here Friday, the 2823rd Joint Staff Communique said that at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy anti-aircraft gun, one munitions dump and several vehicles were destroyed in the northwestern fronts Thursday by Iranian artillery fire. An Iranian patrol convoy also discovered and seized 200 enemy mines upon its return from a mission.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and Western fronts yesterday, killing or wounding at least 10 enemy soldiers and destroying two vehicles, one munitions dump and five bunkers of theirs.

Iraqi engineering operations in Hajj 'Umran and Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts, were halted or disrupted Thursday by heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants.

In the western fronts Thursday, Muslim forces of Iran inflicted considerable casualties on enemy troops and set afire one munitions dump, three vehicles and several gun emplacements of theirs. Enemy engineering operations were also checked in Qasr-E Shirin, Sumar and Mehran.

In artillery duels in the southern fronts especially Kushk, Zobeyd Deh, Hoseynian and western Jofeyr, several Iraqi motorized columns sustained heavy losses Thursday when hit by Iranian artillery fire, the communique concluded.

Unnumbered Staff Communique

LD021429 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — Iranian Navy intercepted and searched 14 foreign vessels and oil tankers in the Hormuz Strait Friday, but allowed them to continue voyage since they were not carrying any suspicious goods.

Announcing the above Saturday, Joint Staff Command communique said that Iran's Muslim combatants, continuing their defensive and patrol operations in the northwestern fronts over the preceding 24 hours, silenced the enemy fire and inflicted

considerable casualties and damage upon Iraqi troops in the Sardasht theatre.

Artillery fire also continued between the two sides in the western fronts, with the Iranian defenders holding the upper hand over the said period. In these operations, the enemy forces sustained more casualties and lost a tank, a munitions depot and several bunkers and look-out posts.

Farther down, in the southern fronts, the Muslim forces returned Iraqi artillery fire, killing or wounding six enemy soldiers as well as destroying one ammunition dump and some bunkers.

Also, in the area west of the Anbar river in the same operational region, movements of Iraqi tanks and vehicles were checked by Iranian artillery fire.

The communique concluded that 10 enemy armament emplacements were demolished by Iran's gendarmerie forces, who killed or wounded a number of Iraqi troops and knocked out their armoured equipment and vehicles over the afore-mentioned period.

Kurd Gas Victims Transferred

LD030802 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 3, IRNA — Some 17 Iraqi Kurds, victims of the Baghdad regime's chemical bombardments were transferred to Bakhtaran from inside northeastern Iraq, for medical treatment.

According to the report they are members of the Iraqi dissident group, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and were injured in the Iraqi regime's chemical attacks on its own nationals in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province during the past few days.

Gas Victims Treated

LD032017 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 3, IRNA — Another group of Iraqi villagers injured by Ba'thist chemical weapons in Iraq's Kurdistan received medical treatment here, Saturday.

The villagers are suffering from serious injuries including also blindness, respiratory problems and skin burns as a result of exposure to toxic gases. All of the victims described the chemical bombardments as "brutal."

A 20-year-old Iraqi victim, Nozad Abdol-Vahhab [name as received] from Sulaymaniyah, told IRNA that the Iraqi nation has no fear of the Baghdad government's chemical attacks. "We will continue our struggle to get rid of the Ba'thist regime," he added.

An Iraqi kurdish combatant, Sadeq Abdol-Rahman [name as received] said that Saddam Husayn does not pity even his own nation. He added that Saddam is not competent to rule Iraqi Muslims, because he has destroyed tens of villages in northern Iraq's Kurdistan.

The Iraqi regime bombarded scores of villages in Iraq's Kurdistan on April 16, killing and wounding hundreds of innocent Muslim villagers.

Gas Victims on Resistance

NC040903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that two residents of Irbil in Iraq, who were sent to the Islamic Republic of Iran for treatment following the chemical bombardment of regions in Iraqi Kurdistan, have revealed fresh details of the inhuman acts committed by the Baghdad rulers.

Faqih al-Hasan, a former employee of the accounts department of the Irbil Tobacco Company, who recently joined the Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas, said: The (?Balikiyan) area in Irbil province was the target of three consecutive chemical bombardments by the aircraft of the Zionist Iraqi regime. During these bombardments, several villages in the region known as Alanah were hit and a number of defenseless residents of these villages were martyred or wounded.

This gas victim then called on the alert conscience of the world to consider this painful disaster and said: After the calamity of the chemical bombardment of villages in Iraqi Kurdistan, there was a wave of protests in most Iraqi cities. Opposition to the Iraqi security forces and Armed Forces is spreading, and a number of Iraqi contingents in Irbil recently rebelled in reaction to the disastrous bombardment of villages inhabited by Kurds. In one case the official in charge of the city's information and security office was shot at.

The report adds that another gas victim, named Ramadan Rasul al-Qadir, a civil engineer, who is hospitalized, stated: The people of Iraqi Kurdistan ignore the savage acts of the Ba'thist Party and continue their resistance. However, we want international organizations to condemn the Iraqi regime and not to allow it to continue these acts. He said: We tell Saddam's mentors that they have become accomplices in the crimes against us by selling destructive weapons to this criminal regime. He then called on the freedom-loving countries of the world to help the victims of the recent chemical bombardment of Iraqi Kurdistan and to assist them in their treatment and in the procurement of medication needed by them.

'Daring' Operations in Baghdad

LD031250 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — A series of daring operations were carried out inside Baghdad province, the very heart of the Ba'thist regime, by Iraqi Mujahideen in coordination with combatants of the Ramadhan headquarters, the irregular warfare division of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). The operations code named 'Martyr Daqayeqi', inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi regime.

In these operations the Hillah arms manufacturing factory, known as Eskandariyya [name as received] mine, was exploded,

setting a large part of it ablaze. A great number of Iraqi military personnel were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, a vice den of the Iraqi Ba'thist agents in Al-Mansur District of Baghdad was also attacked by Mujahideen in which 18 Ba'thists were killed and scores of others were wounded.

In another development one of the senior officials of the Iraqi Ba'th party, Jabbar, was killed in Baghdad by the Mujahideen who also attacked a chemical plant in Al-'Amarah, destroying parts of it.

The operations simultaneous with the recent victorious achieved by Muslim forces of Iran in the war fronts were in response to the Iraqi regime's crimes in suppressing the Muslim Iraqi people.

Forces of Islam after successfully carrying out these operations returned to their bases safely.

Communique No 2825

LD031558 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — A cargo ship suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was intercepted in the strait of Hormuz Saturday and later escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection by Iran's Navy gunboats, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 2825th joint staff communique said Iran's Navy gunboats also intercepted and inspected 12 other cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo aboard.

An Iraqi boat in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway was destroyed by coastal artillery fire of Iranian naval troops Saturday.

All Iraqi air violations throughout the fronts were repelled by Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft fire Saturday, and enemy troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment across the battlefields in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants.

In the southern fronts Saturday, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions, two munitions dumps and two tanks were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian forces shelled an Iraqi artillery unit in Nahre-Anbar, southern fronts, Saturday, destroying a number of enemy artillery pieces. Enemy patrol helicopters in Kushk and Talayeh theaters were forced to flee by Iranian surface-to-air fire.

In the western fronts, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with one munitions dump were destroyed Saturday when they were shelled by Iranian patrol units.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in Piranshahr, Hajj-'Umrān, Sar Dasht and Marivan, northwestern fronts, inflicted several casualties on Iraqi troops and destroyed a number of enemy tanks. Enemy engineering operations were also checked in Punjwin, the communique concluded.

Kurds Conduct Ambushes in Iraq

LD031711 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpts] A Central News Unit correspondent has dispatched a report on ambush operations by the Muslim revolutionary Kurds of Iraq in Irbil Province.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Ibrahim Zanganah, governor general of Irbil in Iraq, has been injured by dissident Kurds in Iraq. This has happened as the continued struggle by the people in northern Iraq widens extensively against the forces of the subservient regime of Saddam. During the past week, Kurdish combatants launched an (?attack) along a route used by 'Ali Hasan Majid, — a cousin of Saddam, who had travelled to Irbil Province to warn the Kurdish people there — and injured Ibrahim Zanganah, Irbil Province's governor general, and killed a number of his guards. [passage omitted]

During the past week, the inhuman regime of Saddam bombed dozens of villages and districts in Irbil, Sulaymaniah, Dahuk and Kirkuk, killing and injuring another group of the defenseless people of northern Iraq.

A number of Kurdish combatants whose homes have been bombed by chemical charges in various parts of Kurdistan in Iraq, and have been transferred to treatment centers in the west of our country by the personnel under the control of Ramadan headquarters for Irregular Warfare of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, stated during an interview that due to fatal blows received by Saddam's forces from peshmargas of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Democratic Party and other Kurdish strugglers, the Ba'thist regime in Iraq has lost control of most towns, districts and villages. 'Ali Hasan Majid, Saddam's cousin, during his tour of Irbil warned all Kurdish people in this connection, saying that if the struggle continues their towns will be totally ruined.

During the past 2 weeks, residents of 100 villages of Dahuk and Irbil have been transferred to a desert in Jordan and a district in Kuwait. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Another person injured during the same savage bombing raids said: The agents of Saddam's regime have warned the Kurdish people that they should immediately leave their villages and be transferred to southern camps or to Jordan. [passage omitted]

The injured Kurdish struggler listed another group of Iraqi villages bombed using chemicals during the past 2 weeks as follows: (Barizan) region: (Hoshtawdi), (Duli), (Barizan), (Brawa), Lower and Upper (Shiri), (Suran), (Margasar), (Miluk), (Zirkhan), (Balukah), (Tutnah), (Sepilka), (Ashkutah), (Sartakah), (Halkutah), (Durmarah), (Dar Awah), (Char Sinah), (Kan Ray), (Ban Awiya), (Saidkuk), (Kindur), Alanah, (Rumayis), (Kanirish); and also in Rawanduz region: (Gilawand), (Binmudah), (Sapilan) and the environs of (Setiawan). He added: During the past week, the Peshmargas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq succeeded in killing the intelligence supervisor in Mahmur region in Irbil.

Kurds Set Ba'th Office Afire

LD031730 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 3, IRNA — The headquarters of the Iraqi Ba'th Party in Dairkur [name as received] town was set afire during a string of operations by irregular forces under the command of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Ramadan headquarters and peshmargas of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) last week.

During the overnight attack two police stations in the town were also hit and nine Ba'thist troops were killed and wounded.

Meanwhile, Ba'thist efforts using helicopters and warplanes, to break the siege on Kani Masi region, in northeastern Iraq was foiled last week with Iraqi troops retreating from the region sustaining considerable casualties.

In another development the PUK forces destroyed Iraqi security organisation in the northern city of Al-'Amadiyah last week.

Navy Commander Interviewed on Combat Readiness

LD031432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0740 GMT 3 May 87

[Interview with Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, commander of the Iranian Navy, by unidentified correspondent on "Armed Forces" program, date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Commodore, thank you for agreeing to give us your time. Please tell us what you think about the latest threats of global arrogance and the hue-and-cry raised by reactionary countries of the region in the vital basin of the Persian Gulf. What is the extent of the combat-readiness of the Navy in the face of potential movements and other issues?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Taking note of the point that the mercenary enemy has experienced many defeats on the battlefronts, the global arrogance, superpowers, and those countries that are assisting our mercenary enemy — in spite of all the equipment and all the support they have given to the enemy — have realized that our combatants still achieved victories on the fronts and that they [hostile countries] could not confront our combatants. When they realized that all this equipment and support have not really been effective, I think that they then conspired to bring to the forth the issue of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Hormuz Strait so as to have a pretext for having an independent and continuous presence in these regions and thus to, perhaps, make themselves potentially involved independently.

And here, I can tell you that the Navy, through the strength and power that it possesses, will stand firm against any moves that may be made in this sensitive and vital region. With the readiness of our fleet — naval vessels, destroyers, helicopters, and other equipment at our disposal; our missile systems that are stationed all along the coastline and operate in a mobile form; shore-to-sea missile systems with long and short ranges; sea-to-sea missile

systems mounted on our heavy and light vessels; destroyer units and other various types of surface-to-surface missiles that are mounted on our naval vessels in various dimensions; and, additionally, helicopters equipped with air-to-surface missiles, and so on — with these systems we are prepared for retaliation, and we are waiting for the orders from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces to carry out the duty assigned to us.

[Question] What projects has the Navy adopted for raising the combat power and defense of this force?

[Answer] In the first place, we intend to maintain the high-level preparedness of complex systems and vessels that we possess, which are equipped with more or less advanced systems. A great deal of effort has gone into this; and, thanks be to God, at the moment the Navy possesses a very high level of combat-readiness, taking note of the efforts made by the selfless, faithful personnel, experts, and technicians of our force. We will maintain this combat-readiness and shall even raise its level.

Besides these, we aim to make use of all innovations and inventions which are being made in the fields of war, equipment, and arms by all the experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and our Islamic homeland, at whatever levels that these are being carried out, so as to increase our power and match the progress of the world's advanced systems.

[Question] The industrial and technical exhibition staged by the Self-Sufficiency Jihad and the first course of the Marines in Manjil was inaugurated and inspected by you. Commodore! Generally speaking, how would you assess these types of activities?

[Answer] Taking note of the special characteristics that the Navy had, it was dependent on foreign countries in all respects, notably in the fields of training and technical matters. After the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution, with the attention we paid to the full and decisive belief we had in the issue of self-sufficiency and the fact that we also knew that without becoming self-sufficient in the field of training, and before the culture of self-sufficiency could be encouraged and understood among our personnel, it was not possible to achieve self-sufficiency in the technical and logistics fields [passage indistinct]; we therefore put most of our efforts in trying to become self-sufficient with regard training. [passage omitted]

So, thanks be to God, today, we have reached complete self-sufficiency in this field. In the technical field, taking note of the instructions issued (?by) the respected president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, with the creation of deputy commander posts for self-sufficiency in the Armed Forces, a new movement began. We were able to see some of the results of this progress when we visited the exhibition, and this was an object of great joy. [passage omitted]

[Question] Taking note of the present situation of the Navy, do you intend to carry out any maneuvers in the near future?

[Answer] Yes we do. In order to maintain the combat-readiness of our units, and in order to exercise and test various projects which we are in the process of implementing, we will be carrying

out various maneuvers in the course of the year. These have special characteristics — they will include the disembarkation and embarkation of forces, confrontation with ground and missile threats, retaliatory operations, and preparedness for every kind of movement which may occur in the region; we shall hold exercises for these.

During the current year, too, we have planned to carry out three maneuvers; the first of which will be during the beginning of summer, this year [began 21 March, 1978], which will be a joint exercise and we will once again display the combat power of the Navy.

Ministry Source Denies Kidnapped Turks in Iran *LD021906 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 2 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — An informed source in the Iranian Foreign Ministry denied here today reports in Turkish dailies claiming that 12 kidnapped Turkish nationals have been transferred to Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran will never allow its borders to be used against neighbouring countries, added the source.

The Turkish dailies claimed Friday that 12 Turkish nationals have been kidnapped by Kurds and transferred to a camp inside Iran.

The source said that Turkish officials have several times noted that such allegations were made by those who are worried about the expanding Tehran-Ankara relations.

Heavy Industries Minister Returns From Turkey *LD020836 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 2 May 87*

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi returned home Friday afternoon after an 11 day visit to Turkey.

During his stay in Turkey a Tehran-Ankara economic protocol was signed according to which the volume of bilateral exchanges for the current year has been anticipated around two billion dollars.

Minister Views Trade Protocol *LD030839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 May 87*

[Excerpts] Heavy Industries Minister Nabavi, heading a high-ranking delegation to Turkey, returned to Tehran Friday night. In an interview with our correspondent upon his arrival in Tehran, he spoke about the results of his visit.

He said that the visit was conducted in two parts — a primary and a final stage. During the visit, two meetings with the Turkish prime minister and a meeting with his deputy, along with a number of Turkish ministers, were held. These meetings were useful and resulted in the signing of a protocol of understanding. During his interview with our correspondent, the heavy industries

minister explained some points concerning the protocol of understanding:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr Nabavi, could you discuss the protocol that was signed and the outcome of your visit to Turkey — the meetings with Turkish officials on bilateral trade?

[Nabavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The results of the visit can be summarized in two parts: The first being that a political-cultural delegation accompanying us held meetings on political and cultural matters that were mainly devoted to preparing the ground for the prime minister's visit. The date for the prime minister's visit was approved: the second half of Mordad [begins 23 July].

The second part concerns the technological and economic cooperation between our countries, as has been the case every year. The protocol concerned: trade cooperation; technological, industrial, and engineering cooperation; and also transport — and all of these resulted in various agreements. The total trade exchange came to a figure below \$2 billion, and included nonoil exports as well as oil exports. Moreover, the volume of nonoil exports is not at the unrealistic level of last year. [passage omitted]

Products earmarked for export include: agricultural produce, such as dried fruits and [words indistinct]; mineral products, such as concentrates, powdered coke for cast iron, coal, and others; and industrial products, such as cement, tiles, foundry goods, parts for tractors, lift trucks, and water pumps. The respective departments should make every effort, God willing, to realize the above — unlike the past year. Further, there was to be some polyester yarn, which I forgot to include.

As to procurement, the major items we reached agreement on are basic goods such as grain, fertilizers, flour, and possibly sugar, since we are not sure how much of the Turkish sugar production can be exported; a small amount of meat as well as iron and steel, which is mainly to be used as raw material of our country's manufacturing plants; a small amount of [words indistinct] steel as well as petrochemicals, paper, wood, and automobile parts,

which make up the bulk of the procured goods. We also tried, within the Economic Cooperation Organization framework, to see if we could reduce the duty on goods exported to the other side. [passage omitted includes indistinct portion]

[Correspondent] Could you tell us how much of the \$2 billion worth of bilateral trade concerns nonoil products?

[Nabavi] About \$70 million. We discussed agreements regarding industrial and engineering cooperation. We also spoke about constructing a 2,000 megawatt powerplant, probably along the border, through joint investments, and the electrical power to be (?shared) by both countries. There are drainage contracts on land inside Turkey, and Iranian firms have expressed a readiness to cooperate with Turkish firms. As to cement factories, machine tools, and railcars, various notes and reports have been signed by both sides. Furthermore, cooperation in the fields of coal explorations and setting up steel mills were agreed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further Reportage on Protocol

For Iranian and Turkish media reports on the signing of a trade protocol and the meetings between Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, see the Turkey section of the 4 May Western Europe *Daily Report*.

Khomeyni's Son Sees Ailing Ayatollah Golpayegani LD021811 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni visited the seriously ill Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Golpayegani in the holy city of Qom Saturday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni made the visit on behalf of his father Imam Khomeyni. He also called on Ayatollah Shahabeddin Mar'ashi Najafi in Qom today.